Trinity Episcopal Church + Longview, Texas + April 2016 + Volume 26, Issue 4

#### INVITE - WELCOME - CONNECT

I wish that all of you could have been with us at our most recent Confirmation class. We had two dozen participants, with nine of those either being confirmed or received by Bishop Fisher on Wednesday evening, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The service will be a joint service held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Reel Rd. I hope that you will come and support these persons who are joining the Episcopal Church.

At the beginning of our time together I asked each person around the table to share a little of their "spiritual" biography; their church background and what brought them to Trinity. The various stories were interesting, but they all had one thing in common: All remarked how welcomed and comfortable they felt at Trinity. Over and over again, I hear that from newcomers to Trinity. Likewise I hear from those who have been here for some time that we are more welcoming now than we have been in the past.

It also became apparent in those conversations that we still have work to do in the area of connecting new members to meaningful relationships within the church. Some wanted to know where they can serve. Others wanted to know who is in charge of what ministry. We also have some work to do when it comes to inviting others to Trinity. Up to this point, it appears that we have depended completely on the Spirit of God to deposit people on our doorstep. It is time for us to be



more proactive in our efforts to invite others to join us at Trinity. To paraphrase St. Augustine, we must work like everything depends upon us and pray like everything depends upon God.

We have two great opportunities to hone our skills at inviting and including others. The first is to attend the diocesan *Invite — Welcome — Connect Summit* that will be held at Camp Allen April 28-30. Training will be offered around these three foci of being a hospitable congregation.

For more information about this event sponsored by our diocese, visit invitewelcomeconnect.com. Pamela and I will be attending and I hope you will consider joining us for this special event.

An opportunity for you to connect with other parishioners will be on the evening of May 19<sup>th</sup> at "Sharing Faith Dinners." These are dinners of eight to ten people that feature a simple meal and dinner conversation around topics of faith. This is a diocesan-wide event that is always a wonderful experience.

Pamela and I will not be able to join you on that evening due to a conflict in our schedule. Therefore we are hosting a "Sharing Faith Dinner" in our home the previous week with unchurched friends, friends with whom I have developed relationships at Starbucks. Now, those should be some interesting conversations!

I hope that you will consider participating in either or both events. We have done a wonderful job of creating a welcoming environment at Trinity. Now, let's work on inviting others to join this wonderful church and find their place of ministry with us.

### **TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

LONGVIEW, TEXAS

	STAFF		VESTRY	
The Rev. Kevin Wittmayer	Rector	Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Gary Whitwell	TST Head of School	Harry Barth	Christy Collins	Spencer Alford
Bill Bane	Director of Music Ministries	John Hall	Karen Frith	Kathy Gray
Tim Baker	Director of Student Ministries	Kim Howard	Robert Maly	Christine Prior
Jacqui Baker	Director of Children's Ministries	Ava Welge	Bryan Wilks	Gayland Rushing
Leno Mancilla	Sexton	Senior Warden,	John Hall	
George Pliler	Endowment	Treasurer, Andrew Snell		
Billie Padgett	Office Volunteers			

## **Mission of the Month**



East Texas Child Advocates, Inc. is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping abused and neglected children in five East Texas counties. We make a difference in the lives of children through two programs: East Texas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and Getting Together Safely. East Texas CASA recruits and trains volunteers to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Volunteers work with the judge to ensure a forever home for each child. CASA is the only volunteer organization that empowers everyday citizens as officers of the court. In an overburdened social welfare system, abused and neglected children often slip through the cracks among hundreds of current cases. CASA volunteers change that. Appointed by judges, CASA volunteers typically handle just one case at a time-and commit to staying on that case until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. While others may come and go, CASA volunteers provide that one constant that children need in order to thrive. Funding for these agencies comes from local gifts and individual contributions, along with federal, state and county grants. East Texas Child Advocates is a Greater Longview United Way participating agency.

#### SERVICE OF COMPLINE

Come and worship with us as we celebrate the ancient monastic service of Compline performed by the men's Compline Choir.

Join us for refreshments in Guild Hall immediately following.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10 8:30 PM



Music at Trinity Concert Series

Presents

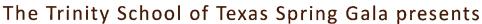
Spring Masterworks Concert

### GRAND MASS IN C MINOR

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Performed by the East Texas Community Chorus, Kilgore College Chorale, and Orchestra

TUESDAY, APRIL 26 • 7:30 PM Admission is Free of Charge





The Golden Girls

Join us for a fun-filled evening spotlighting 25 TST grandmothers answering the call for education!

APRIL 23, 2016 • SUMMIT CLUB, LONGVIEW

For more information, please call Julie Bernard, TST Executive Director of Development at (903) 753-0612



### St. Monday's

# Monday, April 4th

Come and enjoy a wonderful lunch of fried chicken with all the trimmings and desserts! Then, stay for a very engaging

presentation by Dr. Jim Archer, a retired nuclear physicist talking about the creation and evolution of the atomic bomb. A graduate of Texas A & M University, you will not want to miss this very intriguing talk.

Please note time difference: In order to allow Dr. Archer more time for his presentation, we will meet at 11:00 AM today rather than the usual 11:30 AM. Hope to see you there!

### Jesus In Hollywood

Did you know that God is present in some fashion in every movie? Well, he is! Come and join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 PM. We meet to discuss the theology of popular movies, current and past. You watch the movie then meet up for good food and lively conversation.



The movie for April 13th is *The Shawshank Redemption*.

The movie for April 27th is *The Green Mile*Come and be part of this unique and enjoyable time of fellowship.

Location: Bootlegger Grill • 1217 McCann Road Group will meet in the back room.



## **Eucharistic Service of Praise**

With contemporary worship music

Fr. Kevin Wittmayer, Celebrant

Wednesday, April 6th

Dinner at 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM • Worship at 6:30 PM

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH 909 Reel Road • Longview



On May 19, 2016, churches across the United States will gather in small groups to take part in **Sharing Faith Dinners**. At each dinner, a moderator will prompt participants to share stories of their faith journey with printed questions. Sharing Faith provides a welcoming and safe way to engage one another, articulate our faith and build relationships.

We are in need of hosts, who would be willing to prepare a meal for 8 -10 people. You may invite friends and members from Trinity Church or the community. For more information about the sharing faith dinners, please visit sharingfaithdinners.com

Questions? Please contact Dinah Rushing, Sharing Faith Dinners Coordinator at (903) 234-1929

# YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP 2016

Members of our Trinity youth group will be traveling to St. Louis this summer on a mission, working in many different capacities. Our trip is scheduled for June 27 – July 1. We will stay at Washington University, and live together in community with many other students. Our work will be focused on helping several different groups including food banks, feeding programs, homeless ministries, and a housing ministry called *Doorways* that supports women and children living with HIV, making urban gardens, networking with public schools as well as helping individual families with home repairs.

Would you please participate with us in several ways?

- Please pray for the team. Pray for safe travels and for safety while working. Pray for the adults who are going, and for the students who are committed to helping the people of Nashville. Students will give emotional effort in addition to physical effort. Pray that they are filled before they leave, and pray for them the week of the trip.
- Please help pay for the trip. Each student is required to pay \$300, with an additional \$75 for trip expenses. Some students can afford to pay this amount, others will need scholarships. In addition to scholarships, there will be general trip expenses, van rental, etc. If you're able, give a gift to help fund this trip. Checks can be made payable to Trinity Episcopal Church, please be sure to put "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo.

I cannot wait to see how God uses our students. I'm THRILLED about this trip. Thank you for your support of our youth!

The Episcopal Church House of Bishops met in retreat March 11 – 15 at Camp Allen Conference Center in Navasota, TX. The House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church, unanimously approved the following Word To The Church. Total Votes: 171

#### A Word to the Church

Holy Week 2016

'We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others.'

On Good Friday the ruling political forces of the day tortured and executed an innocent man. They sacrificed the weak and the blameless to protect their own status and power. On the third day Jesus was raised from the dead, revealing not only their injustice but also unmasking the lie that might makes right.

In a country still living under the shadow of the lynching tree, we are troubled by the violent forces being released by this season's political rhetoric. Americans are turning against their neighbors, particularly those on the margins of society. They seek to secure their own safety and security at the expense of others. There is legitimate reason to fear where this rhetoric and the actions arising from it might take us.

In this moment, we resemble God's children wandering in the wilderness. We, like they, are struggling to find our way. They turned from following God and worshiped a golden calf constructed from their own wealth. The current rhetoric is leading us to construct a modern false idol out of power and privilege. We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others. No matter where we fall on the political spectrum, we must respect the dignity of every human being and we must seek the common good above all else.

We call for prayer for our country that a spirit of reconciliation will prevail and we will not betray our true selves."

# March Vestry Meeting



After our opening time of prayer, the Vestry approved February's minutes and heard a report from our Treasurer, Andrew Snell. The church incurred a loss again in the month of February due to some unusually large expenses. Even though this decreased our cash balances, we still have an adequate amount in the checking account at this time. It is hoped that 1st quarter pledge statements to be distributed at the end of March will remind parishioners to remain current on their pledge commitments.

There was no Jr. Warden's report but Fr. Kevin informed the Vestry that the refurbishment and repair of the stained glass windows was complete. Fr. Kevin reported that Alan Robertson had approached him about the possibility of starting a

Boy Scout Troop at Trinity. He wanted to know if the Vestry in principle would be in favor of a troop sponsored by Trinity. The consensus of the Vestry was that we should explore what might be involved in starting a troop at the church.

Fr. Kevin also made the Vestry aware of the fact that he was in conversation with the diocese about the possibility of hiring a half-time assisting priest at the parish. His conversations with the diocese have explored the idea of sharing a priest with another congregation. The priest would serve the other church on Sundays and be available during the week at Trinity for pastoral care and other duties. Fr. Kevin reminded the Vestry that we currently have a deficit budget, therefore, we would have to determine how to fund the position were it to be a possibility.

The beginning of our evening Sunday School program was the next item on the agenda. Fr. Kevin reported that approximately ten children participated the previous Sunday evening. The program, taught by Rae Minchew, who also serves part-time at Trinity Episcopal in Marshall, was well received. Fr. Kevin. however, expressed his disappointment that after repeated announcements soliciting volunteers to help supervise, he and Pamela were the only other adult volunteers that evening. This also led to a discussion about the lack of participation by the congregation at the Lenten Study, especially by Vestry members.

A last item of business was a discussion about the use of the Trinity Conference Center south of town. It was determined that we should have an official inspection of the house in order to decide what repairs are needed. With that inspection, we would be able to determine the cost/benefit analysis of future use of the property. The Vestry authorized the expenditure of up to \$500 for the inspection.



## APRIL 2016 Birthdays & Anniversaries



# Happy Birthday

4/02	Tisha Grotemat	4/09	Geoff Hoover	4/18	Bonnie Singer
4/04	Tinka Amos	4/11	Connor Barbe	4/19	Summer Styles
4/05	Edwin Buckner	4/12	Neina Kennedy	4/20	Tom Phillips
4/05	Craig Jackson	4/12	Rolin McPhee	4/24	Kay Pigeon
4/05	La Juan Snider	4/12	Jack Madison Abernathy	4/24	Bobby Mann
4/06	Elizabeth Cargill	4/15	Scott Stevens	4/24	Lakin Styles
4/08	Micki Maly	4/15	Noah Collins	4/26	Henry Yarbrough
4/08	Elise McClure	4/16	Steve Brice	4/28	Stan Hayes
4/08	Tom Taylor	4/16	Beverly Todd	4/29	Kate Wilkinson
4/09	Charles Fricks	4/17	Barbara Johnson	4/29	Reagan McLemore
4/09	Christa Howard	4/18	Frances Avent	4/30	Jennifer Calk

# Happy Anniversary

4/02 Stephen & Alyce Sparks

4/19 Robert & Marilyn Hampton

4/25 Ernest & Susan Thomas

### Trinity Service Calendar Month of April – Lectionary Year C

Date	April 3 The Second Sunday of Easter	April 10 The Third Sunday of Easter	April 17 The Fourth Sunday of Easter	April 24 The Fifth Sunday of Easter
First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
Altar Team	Mann Team	Baker Team	Collins Team	Campbell Team
Verger	J. Barbe	C. Collins	M. Wilks	S. Alford
Coffee Hour	K. Hall	E. Campbell	C. Wilks	D. Rushing C. Sikes
Flower Delivery	L. Leath D. Skeans	C. Wilks C. Prior	J. Walters D. Fricks	M. Arnold M. Harkrider
Early Service				
Ushers	E. Campbell M. Pliler	E. Campbell M. Pliler	E. Campbell M. Pliler	E. Campbell M. Pliler
Greeters	Charles Team	Maly Team	Charles Team	McWhorter Team
Acolyte	G. McWhorter	T. Gignilliat	J. Hall	T. Gignilliat
Lay Readers				
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	G. Rushing G. McWhorter	L. Snider J. Welge	N. Collins J. Hall	G. Hoover J. Welge
L. E. Ma	G. Rushing G. McWhorter	L. Snider J. Welge	N. Collins J. Hall	G. Hoover J. Welge
Late Service				
Ushers	Crittenden Team	Jones Team	Kirkindoll Team	Thorson Team
Greeters	Gray Team	Skeans Team	Barbe Team	Kirkindoll Team
Acolytes	Team 2	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2
Lay Readers				
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	A. Robertson C. Collins	C. Grotemat J. Sloan	J. Fowler J. Sawyer	R. McPhee S. York
L. E. M.	A. Robertson C. Collins	A. Robertson J. Sloan	J. Fowler G. Rushing S. York	
L. E. V.		N. Collins J. Mraz		M. Arnold L. Leath



			JIII 20			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					I	2
3 Regular Sunday Schedule 5;30 PM Young Adult/ Young Family Fellowship Coffee Café	4 9:00 AM Spiritual Growth Study Group 11:00 AM St, Monday's	5 6:00 PM Senior Men's Dinner	6 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Handbell Ensemble Practice 6:30 PM Eucharistic Service of Praise St, Michael's Episcopal Church 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	7	8	9
10 Regular Sunday Schedule Youth Bowling Following 10:30 AM Service 8:30 PM Compline	11 9:00 AM Spiritual Growth Study Group 5:30 PM Daughters of the King	12	13 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Handbell Ensemble Practice 6:00 PM Jesus in Hollywood 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14	15	16
17 Regular Sunday Schedule 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Parent's Night Out 5:30 PM Youth Basketball	18 9:00 AM Spiritual Growth Study Group	19 6:00 PM Vestry	20 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Handbell Ensemble Practice 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21	22	6:00 PM TST Spring Gala Summit Club
24 Regular Sunday Schedule	25 9:00 AM Spiritual Growth Study Group	26 7:30 PM Masterworks Concert Mozart Great Mass in C Minor	27 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Handbell Ensemble Practice 6:00 PM Jesus in Hollywood 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28 Invite - Welco	29 me - Connect Summit at C	30 amp Allen
			REG	8:00 AM Rite 9:00 AM 0 9:15 AM Adult C	MORNING SCHED I Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour Thristian Education II Holy Eucharist	DULE:

#### **TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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THE TRUMPET
Permit Type: Periodicals
Permit # 99990
Is published monthly by
Trinity Episcopal Church
906 Padon, Longview, TX
75601 Periodicals PAID
At Longview, TX
POSTMASTER: Send
Address changes to
906 Padon, Longview, TX
75601

### **April Special Events**

4th	St. Monday's, 11:00 AM, Parish Hall
6th	Eucharistic Praise Service, 5:30 PM Dinner, 6:30 PM Worship, St. Michael's Church
10th	Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave
13th & 27th	Jesus in Hollywood, 6:00 PM, Bootlegger Grill
23rd	Trinity School of Texas Spring Gala, 6:00 PM
26th	Music at Trinity Masterworks Concert, 7:30 PM, Nave
29th-30th	Invite-Welcome-Connect Summit, Camp Allen

### **May Special Events**

2nd	St. Monday's, 11:30 AM, Parish Hall
4th	Bishop Fisher Confirmation Service, Time: TBA, St. Michael's Episcopal Church
8th	Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave (Last Compline of the Season)
11th & 25th	Jesus in Hollywood, 6:00 PM, Bootlegger Grill
19th	Sharing Faith Dinners, Time and Teams TBA
19th	Trinity School of Texas Baccalaureate Service, 6:00 PM, Nave
20th	Trinity School of Texas Graduation Ceremony, 7:00 PM, Nave
30th	Memorial Day - CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED