



THE TRINITY TRUMPET

TRINITYPARISH.ORG

Trinity Episcopal Church ♦ Longview, Texas ♦ January 2016 ♦ Volume 26, Issue 1

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, VERSION 3.1

The Children's Ministry of our church is in a period of transition. Over the past few weeks I have interviewed a number of worthy candidates for the position of Director of Children's Ministry. However, at this point we have not found that perfect person for the position. The search continues as we prayerfully consider each and every candidate. We still welcome your recommendations.

During this same period we have had many discussions among the staff, Vestry and parents about the area of Children's Ministry at Trinity. I have also met with a small group of young adults whose children participate in the program. I have listened to their concerns and their recommendations. After much thought and prayer I have made the decision to suspend our Sunday School program for the children and youth of our parish. This was an extremely difficult and heart wrenching decision for me to come to as the rector of this church.

The truth is that for a number of reasons the parents and children do not attend the Sunday School on Sundays. A big

part of that reality is a change in our culture that has left families "time poor." Because of the numerous activities that children are involved in during the week and on Saturday many families are exhausted by Sunday. As Bob Dylan reminded us, "the times they are a changing."



One of my mentors used to say that she was always amazed that Christians who believe in resurrection have such a difficult time allowing things to die. One of the lessons I learned from this wise woman was that when we allow one church program to die the energy released allows a new program to live. That sounds like resurrection to me. So as painful as it is to let go of Children and Youth Sunday School as it is traditionally structured, I look forward to what will be raised in its stead.

It is not acceptable to abandon the children of this parish

so even now we are restructuring Christian formation for our youngest members. We are exploring two possibilities in particular. The first is a family based program on the internet offered by Trinity Episcopal Church in The Woodlands called "Formation As A Family." The program offers a weekly curriculum that can be engaged by the entire family. Prior to the Sunday School movement of the 19th century this is how Christian Education was conducted, in the home.

Second, we are exploring the creation of a twice a month Sunday evening program for our children, much like our youth presently have. This program would meet concurrently with formation opportunities for the young adults.

I ask that you pray for our discernment as we continue to restructure the Children's Ministry. Please pray that we find the perfect person to put all these important pieces together. We want a person who loves children and loves the Lord with all their heart. I know that God will hear the cry of our hearts for our children.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LONGVIEW, TEXAS

STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Wittmayer	Rector
Gary Whitwell	TST Head of School
Bill Bane	Director of Music Ministries
Tim Baker	Director of Student Ministries
Vacant	Director of Children's Ministries
Leno Mancilla	Sexton
George Pliler	Endowment
Billie Padgett	Office Volunteers

VESTRY

<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>
David Balliett	Harry Barth	Christy Collins
Scott Jones	John Hall	Karen Frith
Elise McClure	Kim Howard	Robert Maly
Ted Skeans	Ava Welge	Bryan Wilks
Senior Warden, John Hall		
Junior Warden, Robert Maly		
Treasurer, Sammy York		
Clerk of the Vestry, Kristin Hoover		

Mission of the Month



The Longview Community Ministries was formed in 1983 to serve Longview residents in need by providing temporary assistance to relieve suffering and/or prevent homelessness. Longview Community Ministries meets these needs in many ways: cooked meals delivered to the homebound, computer skills; free coats and jeans in the fall for youth; emergency medical assistance; and help for those in crisis with emergency rent or groceries. This ministry serves as an organization to enable Longview congregations and groups to work together more effectively in the community through cooperative acts of service to assist persons in need regardless of race, religion, or creed. What a wonderful ministry in the midst of the Longview community.

Music at Trinity Concert Series Presents

Dr. Virginia Lile Boaz

Mezzo Soprano

In Vocal Recital

Tuesday, January 26 • 7:00 PM

Dr. Boaz is head of the Vocal Music division at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall. She has sung on the national as well as international stage and is in demand as a soloist and vocal clinician. She is the director of an annual opera at ETBU, which is held in February of each year. We welcome the immense talents of Dr. Boaz to Trinity and know that you will be in for a wonderful musical experience.

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, JANUARY 10
8:30 PM**

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 4th Wednesdays of January 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 January 27th is *Of Gods and Men*
Come and be part of this unique and enjoyable time of fellowship.

Location: Bootlegger Grill • 1217 McCann Road

TRINITY SENIOR MEN

Trinity Senior Men is a gathering of men age 60 and older who meet monthly on the second Tuesday of every month. We meet for conversation and fellowship over dinner in the Parish Hall at 6pm and we close with Compline. All senior men are welcome to join us. If you have a question, contact Harry Barth at 903-235-9219 or Barney Jones at 903-236-8617.

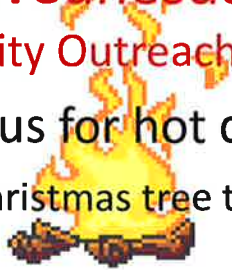
Epiphany Party and Bonfire

6:00 PM • Wednesday, January 6th

Trinity Outreach Center

Come join us for hot dogs and chips

Bring your old Christmas tree to add to the bonfire!



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 24th • 9:15 AM

PARISH HALL

All members of Trinity Church are invited to attend this important event.

December Vestry Report

The Vestry had a full agenda to consider at its December meeting before they were able to enjoy a Christmas party hosted by John and Karen Hall. After dispensing with the approval of the agenda and the minutes from their previous meeting Fr. Kevin presented the November financials. Due to strong year end giving by parishioners and prepaid 2016 pledges the church's financial position is excellent. It is hoped that the December financials will be as strong and the church will end the current year with a surplus.

Robert Maly reported that the parking lot has been restriped. He further reported that plumbing for the heating system in the old building broke. The pipes will be patched until the Spring. At that time, all options will be explored as far as a permanent repair. Elise McClure reported that as of the Vestry meeting approximately \$508,000 in 2016 Pledges have been received. There are approximately twenty pledges that have not been received by households who pledged either last year or the previous year. Vestry members agreed to call those

individuals to determine if they intend to pledge for 2016.

Fr. Kevin presented a draft of the 2016 budget and conversation ensued about individual budget items. Final approval of the budget will happen in January after all anticipated pledges are returned. Vestry members suggested making budget cuts in order to provide 3% raises for the lay staff. Fr. Kevin reported that he has interviewed three candidates for the Director of Children's Ministry position. One candidate is particularly qualified; however, that candidate's schedule may not be compatible with the needs of the children's program.

Fr. Kevin presented his candidates for the Endowment Board vacancies. The candidates are Steve Baker, Nancy Sawyer, Dee Shappell, and Rachel Snell. Fr. Kevin presented the current candidates for Vestry and Diocesan Council nominees. The candidates for Vestry are Spencer Alford, Harry Barth, Kathy Gray, Christine Prior, Tovah Robertson, and Gayland Rushing. The candidates for Council Delegates are Claire Alford, Harry Barth, Christy Collins, Shirley Bratton Downs, John Hall, and Linda Leath. The Vestry approved both

slates of candidates for Vestry and Diocesan Council with the option of adding two additional candidates on both slates if they became available.

Fr. Kevin stated that he sent the updated Gift Acceptance Policy to Vestry members for their review. He was concerned however that the Vestry members have not had adequate time to review the document since last edited. The Vestry tabled further consideration until its January meeting. The last item of business considered was a change to the process by which delegates to Diocesan Council are selected. It was suggested that at least one of delegates be selected by the Vestry, the rest being elected at the Annual Meeting. The appointment of a delegate by the Vestry could insure the appointment of a delegate that had prior experience as a delegate. A number of Vestry members were opposed to that suggestion, not wanting to remove the selection of delegates from those attending the Annual Meeting. Harry Barth suggested staggered terms for council delegates. The Vestry tabled the issue in order to formulate a policy to present to the parish at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Adapted from Distinctive Traditions of Epiphany
By Amber and John Inscore Essick

To celebrate the feast of Epiphany is to continue down the liturgical path that originates in the anticipatory weeks of Advent. The feast completes the season of Christmas by inviting us to discern the identity of the Christ child. Like the Magi who anticipated, recognized, and welcomed the infant king, congregations and families can recognize and proclaim the appearance of God's chosen one. Thus, Epiphany is the culmination of the Christmas season, not its ending.

Three historical Epiphany traditions—

THE KING'S CAKE

Just as the Magi made a careful search for the child king upon his birth, so we should



acknowledge that an important component of our faith involves seeking and searching for the Lord in unlikely places. One delightful way to celebrate Epiphany in the home is to prepare and eat a Kings' Cake with friends and family. In this symbolic search for the baby Jesus, children and adults gather to eat a delicious cake or pastry with a toy baby hidden inside. The person who finds the baby Jesus in his or her piece of cake is awarded the honor of providing the next year's cake and/or hosting the celebration.

THE MAGI'S BLESSING



Another tradition of Epiphany invokes the Magi's blessing upon the household that hosts [a] party. Guests typically read a brief, responsive liturgy that includes the biblical account of the Magi's visit and then

“chalk the door” with a series of marks. The markings include letters, numbers, and crosses in a pattern like this: 20 † C † M † B † 16. The numbers correspond to the calendar year (20 and 16, for instance, for the year 2016); the crosses stand for Christ; and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M, and B are the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), but they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, “May Christ bless this house.”



CANDLELIGHT ON EPIPHANY

From Advent wreaths to Christmas Eve candlelight services to symbolic tongues of fire on Pentecost, candlelight is an important metaphor and teaching tool for many congregations throughout the liturgical year. In addition to the Kings' Cake and Magi's blessing, thoughtful and intentional incorporation of lighted candles in homes and churches can help us reclaim Epiphany as a celebration of the arrival of the Magi. The candlelight also reminds us that the feast of Epiphany marks the theophany of Christ, the recognition of Christ in his baptism by the Father and Holy Spirit. According to Luke and John, God's appearance in the person of Jesus is comparable to light entering a darkened world.

CONCLUSION

To proclaim the Epiphany is to celebrate the Epiphany. Reclaiming the feast of Epiphany means that families and congregations join the Magi in seeking and adoring the Christ child. Baking a Kings' Cake, chalking the door post with the Magi's blessing, and incorporating lighted candles in congregational and family worship help us complete the Christmas season and be drawn deeper into the Christian liturgical pilgrimage.



JANUARY 2016

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

1/02	Lisa Baker	1/11	Elisa Collins	1/26	Kandie Mitchell
1/03	Graham Godfrey	1/13	Hunter Grotemat	1/26	Rachel Lynn Harless
1/04	Lynne Sticher	1/15	Timothy Holman	1/27	Esther Frier
1/05	Doug Sapp	1/16	Vernon Moore	1/27	Cashion Sikes
1/07	Mary Scott	1/17	Andee Lucas	1/28	John Michael Clark
1/08	Pamela Davis	1/18	Alan Jones	1/28	Marianne Harkrider
1/08	Jack Thorson	1/23	Richard Mettle	1/29	Ann Jones
1/08	Luke Thorson	1/23	David Baker	1/30	Billy Vaticalos
1/09	Patsy Machin	1/24	Jaclyn Martin	1/31	Brenda Alexander
1/09	Troy Owen	1/24	Jaclyn Abernathy		

Happy Anniversary


1/19 Ted & Dorothy Skeans

Trinity Service Calendar

Month of January – Lectionary Year C

Date	January 3 The Second Sunday after Christmas Day	January 10 The First Sunday after Epiphany	January 17 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany	January 24 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany	January 31 The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84 Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a Matthew 2:13-15,19-23	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Cor. 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-10 Psalm 19 1 Cor. 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Cor. 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30
Altar Team	Collins Team	Campbell Team	Crittenden Team	Mann Team	Baker Team
Verger	S. Alford	J. Barbe	C. Collins	M. Wilks	S. Alford
Coffee Hour	D. Rushing	N. Sawyer	A. Welge	K. Frith P. Shappell	J. Thomas
Flower Delivery	K. Frith C. Prior	K. Frith M. Arnold	K. Frith J. Barth	K. Frith B. Crittenden	K. Frith J. Walters
Early Service					
Ushers	E. Campbell M. Pliier	E. Campbell M. Pliier	E. Campbell M. Pliier	E. Campbell M. Pliier	E. Campbell M. Pliier
Greeters	Charles Team	Maly Team	Charles Team	McWhorter Team	Charles Team
Acolyte	T. Gignilliat	G. Hoover	T. Gignilliat	J. Hall	T. Gignilliat
Lay Readers 1 st Reader 2 nd Reader	G. McWhorter J. Welge	G. McWhorter G. Hoover	B. Charles J. Welge	L. Snider J. Hall	J. Welge L. Snider
L. E. M.	G. McWhorter J. Welge	G. McWhorter G. Hoover	B. Charles J. Welge	L. Snider J. Hall	J. Welge L. Snider
Late Service					
Ushers	Thorson Team	Crittenden Team	Jones Team	Kirkindoll Team	Thorson Team
Greeters	Kirkindoll Team	Gray Team	Skeans Team	Barbe Team	Kirkindoll Team
Acolytes	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2
Lay Readers 1 st Reader 2 nd Reader	J. Sloan J. Fowler	A. Sharp J. Sawyer	Z. Brown A. Robertson	N. Collins G. Rushing	W. Scott C. Collins
L. E. M.	J. Sloan J. Fowler	G. Rushing J. Sawyer	S. York A. Robertson	N. Collins G. Rushing	G. Hoover C. Collins
L. E. V.	B. Charles J. and K. Hall		J. Mraz M. Arnold		L. Leath N. Collins

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OFFICES CLOSED Happy New Year! 	2
3 Regular Sunday Schedule 5:30 PM Young Adult/ Young Family Fellowship Coffee Café	4	5	6 No Noon Eucharist 6:00 PM Epiphany Bonfire Trinity Outreach Center 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	7	8	9
10 Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 PM Compline	11 5:30 PM DOK	12 6:00 PM Senior Men's Dinner	13 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14	15	16
17 Regular Sunday Schedule 5:30 PM Youth Guys & Girls Small Groups	18 OFFICES CLOSED Martin Luther King Day	19 6:00 PM Vestry	20 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24 Regular Sunday Schedule 9:00 ANNUAL MEETING Parish Hall	25	26 7:00 PM Virginia Boaz Concert	27 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Jesus in Hollywood 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28	29	30
31 Regular Sunday Schedule			REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE: 8:00 AM Rite I Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Christian Education 10:30 AM Rite II Holy Eucharist			

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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January Special Events

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st | OFFICES CLOSED - New Year's Day |
| 6th | Epiphany Bonfire, 6:00 PM, Trinity Outreach Center |
| 10th | Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave |
| 18th | CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED - Martin Luther King Day |
| 24th | Trinity Episcopal Church Annual Meeting, 9:00 AM, Parish Hall |
| 26th | Virginia Lile Boaz Concert, 7:00 PM, Nave |

February Special Events

- | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st | St. Monday's, 11:30 AM, Parish Hall |
| 9th | Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 PM, Parish Hall |
| 10th | Ash Wednesday - 10:00 AM, 12 Noon, 6:00 PM Imposition of Ashes |
| 14th | Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave |
| 17th | Soup, Salad, & Small Group Lenten Study begins, 6:00 PM, Parish Hall |