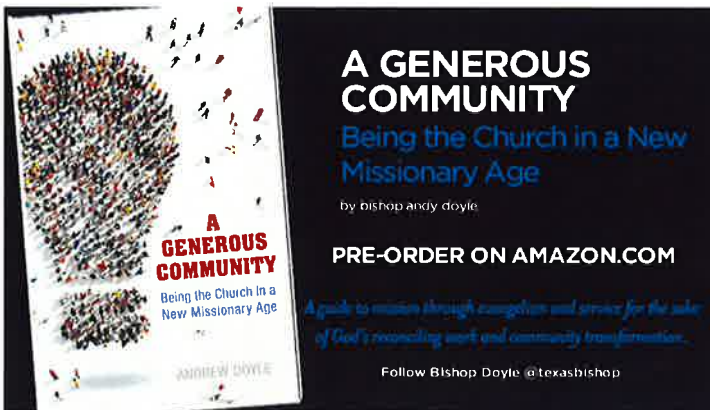




THE TRINITY TRUMPET

TRINITYPARISH.ORG

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH • LONGVIEW, TEXAS • SEPTEMBER 2015 • VOLUME 25, ISSUE 9



Being the Church in a New Missionary Age

This past weekend, eight of your fellow parishioners (Harry Barth, Michelle Arnold, Bill and Patsy Charles, Nathan Collins, Elise McClure, Pamela Wittmayer and I) travelled down to Houston to attend the Bishop's Conference on Missional Communities. In some ways Trinity is ahead of the curve in that we have been talking about missional ministry here for the past six or seven years. It was very gratifying to see that the leadership of the diocese is coming alongside missions and parishes to support this missional effort.

For those of you who may not have been a part of the discussions we have been having over the past few years about missional ministry, let me help "set the table." Missional ministry in some ways is not quantifiable or definable. It is more about a different understanding of the purpose of the church in a changing ministry context. With the changes that have occurred in our culture as it becomes more secular,

what some have defined as post-Christendom, it demands that the Church conduct its ministry and mission in a new way.

The conference emphasized the days of the "attractational church," when you could build it and they would come, are over. No longer will people be attracted to a church just because we have built a better nave, a better children's program, a better music program. Instead a church must embrace its call to mission and go out to where the people live and move and have their being. Simply put the church is not the building; the church is wherever members of Trinity go out and engage in mission and ministry.

Bishop Doyle spoke of the importance of changing the language we use when describing our work in the Church. In the past, we spoke of congregational development, which typically focuses on church growth and average Sunday attendance. The emphasis, as we go forward, will be on

congregational vitality. It is not that we are unconcerned with the number of people in worship on Sunday morning, but it is recognition that church vitality is measured not only by attendance but also by our engagement in mission and ministry in our communities.

Your fellow parishioners who represented Trinity Church at the conference went away energized and excited about the possibilities that lie before us. Our delegation was the largest delegation of any church at the conference and we have traveled the furthest distance to attend. That speaks volumes about the commitment to missional ministry here at Trinity. In the coming months this delegation will be gathering to discuss what are the next steps we need to take a Trinity Church toward becoming a "missional" church. If you have any interest in being a part of those conversations I would encourage you to contact one of the parishioners who attended the conference in Houston.

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
Tisha Grotemat	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 - WINDRIDGE THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER OF EAST TEXAS



Windridge is dedicated to improving the lives of those who face mental, cognitive, or physical disabilities and/or life debilitating situations. Windridge is a non-profit, community supported organization which utilizes standardized therapeutic horsemanship programs.

Windridge is a premier accredited center with the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association. Founded in 1988, Windridge Therapeutic Center is making great strides in the lives of children and adults by providing therapeutic horsemanship programs, physical therapies, academics, and life skills.

Windridge's therapeutic horsemanship programs are funded by individuals, corporations, churches, and civic organizations. Donations received in support of these programs are investments in lives of children and adults with disabilities. Windridge is home to more than 140 participants and 70+ volunteers a week, 9 full time staff members, and 24 horses. For more information about Windridge, please visit their website at windridgetexas.org.



Houston Chamber Choir

IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 • 7:00 PM

Don't miss this award winning ensemble - it will be one of the finest moments of music you will ever hear!

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Service of Compline

Come and worship with us as we celebrate the ancient monastic service of Compline performed by the men's Compline Choir in the beautiful, acoustic and darkened nave.

Afterward, please stay and enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the Guild Hall.

Sunday, September 13 • 8:30 p.m.



Sign up for Children's Choir

Beginning September 20
K -2nd, 3rd -6th grades

For more information, please contact Bill Bane at bbane@trinityparish.org or (903) 753-3366, ext. 19.

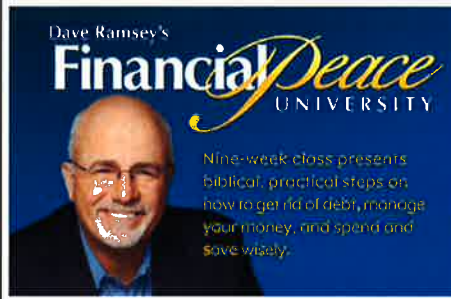
St. Monday's



September 14th
11:30 AM

Menu will be Taco Salad with trimmings and desserts!

Program will feature Mr. Carroll Greenwaldt with Refuge international speaking about his mission to Guatemala.



Trinity Episcopal Church will host the Dave Ramsey "Financial Peace University" course this fall in the Church Parish hall. The plan teaches God's ways of handling money. It presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be.

A (no obligation) class preview session is scheduled for September 3, 2015, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Regular classes are scheduled to begin September 10, 2015, at 6:00 PM; class duration is approximately 1-1/2 hours. The course is completed in 9 weeks. Cost is \$93.00 per family (couple). If you are interested or have questions, contact David Wilcox at 903-326-9797, or attend the preview class. You may register on the Trinity Church website home page at www.trinityparish.org.

A Word About Stewardship for September - John Hall, Senior Warden

Many parishioners have a misconception about the term Stewardship. This is not just an annual effort to raise funds for an operating budget for our parish. It can mean MORE than giving time, talent and treasure. Stewardship can become a way of life that encourages virtue. Christian stewardship can be a way of living which recognizes that everything belongs to God. We are not the owner, but merely the manager of our possessions. Responsible stewardship is discovering, developing and deploying them for God's use in the world.

Prayer: O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grand that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

VESTRY REPORT FOR AUGUST

The bulk of the August Vestry meeting was occupied by a discussion of the church's security needs. A presentation was given to us by James Crittenden representing the Security Task Force. The task force's recommendations were presented under two separate categories, security of parishioners on Sunday and security of the building and grounds in the evening. The task force recommended the employment of an off-duty policeman to be present on the church property on Sundays from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.. The second recommendation was for the contracting of a security service to make sure the doors were locked and secure every night. This evening service would also include two drive-by inspections every night as well. The first recommendation was approved by the Vestry while the second recommendation was tabled for f

further consideration.

Under the Jr. Warden's report the Vestry received an evaluation of the repairs needed to the church's stained glass windows. The analysis was conducted by Willet Hauser, the company that produced and installed the stained glass windows. Most of the windows are in good condition and only need routine maintenance. There are a few windows; primarily those that were brought over from the previous church building that are in need of repair. The Vestry recommended that the Endowment Board take this matter under consideration as the funding for the repairs would be expensed through the Crowder Fund. The Crowder Fund is an Endowment fund that was established to meet unusual and costly maintenance items of the church building.

The financials were reviewed and it was noted that our pledge income

is significantly below the budgeted amounts. It is our hope that with the summer ending our pledge giving will return to budgeted amounts. In the area of Old Business the Vestry approved the creation of a Lucy German Lecture Series with memorial gifts presently held by the church being put into a fund managed by the Endowment Board. At a later time a committee will be created to manage the details of this lecture series. Additional gifts in honor of Lucy Germany and for the purpose of this lecture series can be directed to this new Endowment fund.

The Vestry also revisited a conversation about hiring an Assistant Rector to be shared with St. Michael's Episcopal Church. While no definitive action needed to be taken at this time it was the consensus of the Vestry that they would be amenable to the idea of a part-time clergy person to be shared with St. Michael's.

Longview Community Ministries is needing
volunteers for the Family Service Center.

Hours are M - F 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Susan
Ward, Assistant Director at (903) 753-3561, ext. 205

Coming up in October...

October 3rd - Blessing of the Animals



October 4th - Episcopal School Sunday

How to Talk About Your Religious Beliefs (Without Being a Jerk)

A few things to keep in mind as you enter the dangerous realm of public religious dialogue. According to various strangers on the Internet, I'm going to Hell. I get told so several times a week by Internet commenters who disagree with things I write.

Now, most people would take offense at another's announcement of their own personal damnation or at least be mildly insulted by the messenger, but I always receive this news with a rather soothing mix of peace and gratitude. Firstly, I am keenly aware that someone else's belief about the ultimate destination of my soul has no actual bearing on whether I will indeed burn for all eternity. Secondly, if they do truly believe this, I feel strangely indebted to them for alerting me of the matter.

People ask me all the time how I can regularly interact with passionate people whose religious views are so very different from mine. (Actually, they usually ask how I can deal with "those ignorant morons," but you get the point). While I don't always succeed (as pride, judgment and general jerkiness will continue to seep in), I take great efforts to engage people in matters of faith in a way that is respectful and Grace-giving, and to encourage conversation amongst others that doesn't degenerate into vulgarity and personal attacks. Here are a few core ideas that I fight to remember as I enter into the dangerous, chaotic fray of public religious dialogue:

People are a Product of Their Stories.

People don't pop out of the womb as an atheist, agnostic or believer. Our faith perspective isn't an instant download that comes with the operating system. Everyone you encounter is shaped by their individual journeys—the home where they were raised, their friends, the churches in which they grew up, the books they read, the teachers who inspired them, their experiences, the wounds they've sustained, the way they are wired. It all slowly shapes them, and that very specific renovation of people results in the exact version of them standing in front of you at a given moment. Regardless of whether you can see it,

everyone has a deep back story that looms large, both in their theology and in the way it gets expressed.

Likewise, you too are a product of your story. You have been crafted by time and experience, education and relationships, and these have all formed the uniquely original biases and the blind spots in your own belief system. You know what it's like to be discounted and dismissed from a distance, so remember to fight the temptation to see people as caricatures and cartoons or just two-dimensional representations of a religious argument. As you confront people's ideas and argue with their religion, seek to learn their stories.

Theology is a Place.

What we believe about faith and God and the afterlife is not as fixed as we often like to think. Rather, it is an ever-shifting spot in space and time. You probably believe quite differently than you did 10 years ago in both subtle and substantial ways. And 10 years from now, the same will almost certainly be true. In this way, I like to think of theology as a place; as the specific location where you are right this moment.

This is important as you interact with others, because it helps you clarify your limitations and remember your place. When it comes to matters of faith, you cannot force someone to be where you are. It's not your job or your right to pull someone to your faith perspective; to make them see as you see or agree to the givens you've established in your mind.

Your responsibility is to openly describe the view from where you stand and hope that something in that is helpful or encouraging or challenging to people. Let people know where you are, and ask them to meet you there in relationship. As you talk about God and faith, resist the temptation to try and move people anywhere. That's God's job.

Being Right is Dangerous.

Whether we claim a deep faith or we are certain that faith is a useless mirage, most of us operate under the general (if well-hidden) assumption that we have it right; that we alone have solved the great puzzle that no other living soul has.

Though we may have brief flashes of humility, most of us spend our days fully enamored with our own thinking. We want our certainty to be seen as deeply held conviction, but it's more often used as license to be a jerk. It's our absolute sense of rightness that usually lets us justify treating people terribly. It's the paper-thin line we so easily cross, from righteous to self-righteous.

When you see comments from hateful people who so freely condemn and cast judgment, remember that they think they're correct. Often, they genuinely believe they're right and they're doing the right thing. If they are people of faith, they do want to please God, they don't want to go to Hell, and they want me to know when they think I'm in danger of heading there.

Jesus showed mercy and kindness when He said of His misguided executioners, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Remembering that even destructive faith begins at a beautiful, sincere place doesn't excuse anyone's horrible behavior in the name of God, but it goes a long way in us receiving their words with some measure of understanding.

As you passionately voice and furiously defend your position, whatever that may be, fight relentlessly to remember there's always a chance (and a pretty good one), that you may not be completely right. I want to share my faith perspective with others and I don't want to be an jerk as I do. I think that's true of most people you encounter. I fall and fail, and I forget these ideas daily, but I wake up every single day expectantly in search of them again. As you talk about stuff that really matters, may you remember that people really matter too. Be kind and be encouraged.



John Pavlovitz is a pastor/ blogger from Wake Forest, North Carolina. An 18-year veteran of local church ministry, he currently writes a blog called [Stuff That](#)

[Needs To Be Said](#), and in 2015 is launching an online Christian community called [The Table](#). John has been married for 17 years to Jennifer, and has two children; Noah (9) and Selah (5).



SEPTEMBER 2015

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

09/01	Judy Thomas	09/13	Judy Stone	09/22	Dickens Wilkinson
09/04	Rachel Darby	09/13	Barbara Crittenden	09/22	Trudy Godsey
09/06	Joe Snider	09/14	Drew Jackson	09/22	Paula Howard
09/06	Tali Wilkinson	09/15	Shirley Griffin	09/23	Dianne Conoly
09/06	Charles Miller	09/15	Gene McWhorter	09/24	Tom Irwin
09/07	Bella Butter	09/15	Margaret Miller	09/25	Eleanor Byrd
09/08	Matt Wilks	09/16	Tommy Lloyd	09/25	Peggy Alley
09/09	Nancy McWhorter	09/16	Cherisa York	09/25	Emma Grotemat
09/09	Shirley Bratton	09/18	Tim Baker	09/27	Steve Baker
09/10	Erik Owen	09/19	Mary Davis	09/28	Joel Johnson
09/12	Mary Charlotte Sweat	09/20	Kate Sparks	09/28	Truly Taylor
09/12	Jack Welge	09/21	Bill Bane	09/29	John Hall
09/12	Shirley Caldwell	09/22	Gail Martin	09/29	Fran Mettle
09/12	Jessica Baker	09/22	Jim Sawyer	09/30	Blake Scott

Happy Anniversary

09/01	Dee Anne and John Sloan
09/03	Susie and John Sheffield
09/03	Pearl and Jeffery Thorpe
09/11	Delfina and Gary Whitwell

Trinity Service Calendar

Month of September – Lectionary Year B

Date	September 6 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 13 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 20 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 27 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23 Psalm 125 James 2:1-10(11-13),14-17 Mark 7:24-37	Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a Mark 9:30-37	Esther 7:1-6,9-10;9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
Altar Team	Mann Team	Baker Team	Collins Team	Campbell Team
Verger	M. Wilks	S. Alford	J. Barbe	C. Collins
Parish Security	G. Piler	T. Todd	T. Devon	J. Crittenden
Coffee Hour	P. Charles	L. Sapp	C. Sikes	D. Skeans
Flower Delivery	D. Skeans J. Walters	J. Barth L. Leath	D. Skeans Z. Brown	M. Harkrider J. Barth
Early Service				
Ushers	E. Campbell M. Piler	E. Campbell M. Piler	E. Campbell M. Piler	E. Campbell M. Piler
Greeters	Charles Team	Maly Team	Charles Team	McWhorter Team
Acolyte	B. Charles	T. Gignilliat	G. Hoover	T. Gignilliat
Lay Readers				
1st Reader 2nd Reader	G. Rushing B. Charles	J. Hall G. McWhorter	J. Welge G. Hoover	J. Hall G. Rushing
L. E. M.	G. Rushing B. Charles	J. Hall G. McWhorter	J. Welge G. Hoover	J. Hall G. Rushing
Late Service				
Ushers	Kirkindoll Team	Thorson Team	Crittenden Team	Jones Team
Greeters	Gray Team	Skeans Team	Barbe Team	Kirkindoll Team
Acolytes	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
Lay Readers				
1st Reader 2nd Reader	C. Collins J. Sawyer	C. Stevens N. Collins	K. Sparks J. Sloan	W. Scott J. Fowler
L. E. M.	C. Collins J. Sawyer	S. York N. Collins	J. Sawyer J. Sloan	S. York J. Fowler
L. E. V.		J. Mraz J. Hall K. Hall		L. Leath N. Collins

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3 6:00 PM Financial Peace University Introductory Class	4	5
6 Regular Sunday Schedule	7 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY	8 6:00 PM Senior Men's Dinner	9 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10 6:00 PM Financial Peace University	11	12
13 Regular Sunday Schedule 4:30 PM Youth Back to School Cook-Out 5:30 Young Adult Fellowship - Coffee Café 8:30 PM Compline	14 9:00 AM Spiritual Growth Study Group 11:30 AM St. Monday's 5:30 PM Daughters of the King	15 6:00 PM Vestry Meeting	16 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	17 6:00 PM Financial Peace University	18 7:00 PM Houston Chamber Choir Concert	19
20 Regular Sunday Schedule 9:15 AM Mission of the Month Breakfast Parish Hall 5:30 PM Youth Small Groups	21 9:00 AM Spiritual Growth Study Group	22	23 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	24 6:00 PM Financial Peace University	25	26
27 Regular Sunday Schedule Guest Priest The Rev. Carol Petty	28 9:00 AM Spiritual Growth Study Group	29	30 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal			
				REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE 8:00 AM Rite I Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Rite II Holy Eucharist		



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

906 Padon Street • Longview, TX 75601
Phone (903) 753-3366 • Fax (903) 753-0594
E-Mail: trinity@trinityparish.org
www.trinityparish.org

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September Special Events

- 3rd Financial Peace University Preview Class, 6:00 PM, Parish Hall
- 7th CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
- 8th Senior Men's Dinner, 6:00 PM, Parish Hall
- 10th Financial Peace University (Meeting for next nine weeks), 6:00 PM, Parish Hall
- 13th Youth Back to School Cookout, 4:30 PM
- 13th Young Adult Fellowship, 5:30 PM, Coffee Cafe
- 13th Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave
- 14th Daughters of the King, 5:30 PM, Coffee Cafe
- 18th Houston Chamber Choir Concert, 7:00 PM, Nave
- 20th Youth Small Groups, 5:30 PM

October Special Events

- 3rd Blessing of Animals, Time TBA, Trinity School of Texas
- 4th Episcopal School Sunday, 10:30 AM Worship
- 5th St. Monday's, 11:30 AM, Parish Hall
- 11th Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave
- 12th Daughters of the King, 5:30 PM, Coffee Cafe
- 13th Senior Adult Men's Dinner, 6:00 PM, Parish Hall
- 15th Alexander Boggs Ryan Jr. Memorial Organ Concert, 7:00 PM, Nave
- 25th Trunk or Treat, 6:00 PM, First Christian Church