

Thoughts on the Mission and Ministry We Share

As many of you know, I am enrolled in a certificate program at Loyola University of Chicago. The main purpose of the program is to train spiritual directors to offer the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. For a recent assignment, I was asked to reflect on the Church's mission and especially on three central aspects of that mission, namely "pastoral ministry," "social justice," and "spiritual development." The following is an abridged version of my answer.

Pastoral ministry, social justice, and spiritual development are inseparable but distinct ministries of the Body of Christ and its members. They are given to the one Body in the one Spirit, "the Gift in whom all other gifts are given." (St. Bonaventure's phrase.) Moreover, all these ministries are empowered by that same Spirit, the "Lord and Giver of Life," who "spoke by the prophets." The unity of these ministries is found in the person of Jesus Christ, the giver of the Holy Spirit. He is the Son of God, consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit alike, as well as with our humanity through Mary, his Mother. With respect to pastoral ministry, Jesus shepherds people (especially the lost sheep of Israel and of the Gentile nations). With respect to social justice, he takes up the mantle of the biblical prophets. With respect to spiritual development, he leads people deeper and deeper into union with God.

The world (and every person and creature) is God's good gift, freely and generously given. The world is distorted by our sin and its consequences, but it remains within God's sovereign embrace and freely-given love. God continues to create the world and everyone in it, moment by moment. And what God has "wonderfully created," God has yet "more wonderfully restored" in Jesus, God's Son." (Collect for the Second Sunday After Christmas Day, BCP, p. 214). Sin distorts our relationships: with God, with each other, and with the earth. But God does not abandon us to sin, suffering, and death. Rather, in the fullness of time, God sends Jesus into our flesh, to restore broken fellowship (*koinonia*), to set us free, and to call us into ministry. God relentlessly pursues us out of pure, steadfast love, uniting us in the "fellowship of his Son." (1Corinthians 1:9)

Following Kathryn Tanner (one of my teachers who is a lay theologian in the Episcopal Church and now teaches at Yale Divinity School) and such Ignatian scholars as Joseph Tetlow, I believe in the universal, immediate agency of the Creator. Like Tanner, I see sin as a creature's "blockage" of the flow of an unimaginable abundance of grace, what John's Gospel refers to as "grace upon grace." This is poured out in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am convinced that the goodness of creatures can be obscured but never completely destroyed, because our very existence is the gift of our Creator. God is good and faithful without measure, even when we break faith with God.

In all forms of pastoral care, we serve as companions to others, in order to develop their spirituality by helping others to encounter Jesus through the Scriptures, as well as prayer, sacrament, community life, and the works of justice and mercy. In so doing, we are like midwives for something that the Holy Spirit is already at work to birth. At the end of the day, the Holy Spirit, who is the same Spirit that rested on Jesus, is in the lead. And our ministry is our free cooperation with the Spirit's holy work.

Fr. Bill+

TRINITY CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Bill Carroll, Rector The Reverend Vivian Shelby, Associate Rector Cindy Verhalen, TST Head of School Rachel White, Youth and Children's Minister Tim Baker, Parish Administrator Bill Bane, Director of Music Ministries Jeff Richardson, Communication & Connection Minister Leno Mancilla, Sexton Sammy York, Endowment Board President

<u>VESTRY</u>

Christine Prior, Senior Warden Ava Welge, Junior Warden William Keese, Treasurer

<u>Class of 2024</u> Alyce Sparks, Kathy Tate, Ben Bright, Ava Welge

<u>Class of 2025</u> Karen Frith, Christine Prior, Tovah Robertson, Gary Whitwell

<u>Class of 2026</u> Tisha Grotemat, Elise Hill, William Keese, Jim Sawyer

Pastoral Care Needs?

Please call Fr. Bill Carroll or Mother Vivian Shelby with any Pastoral Care needs. As well, please keep them informed of any pastoral issues that they may need to know about. You can reach them at any time:

Father Bill Cell - (903) 399-1190 Mother Vivian Cell - (832) 846-7072 frbill@trinityparish.org / mothervivian@trinityparish.org

They will be glad to receive phone calls up to 10:00 PM for general issues and at any time for an emergency. Please use your discretion for items that can wait until normal business hours. But, please err on the side of calling or texting for any issues you feel need their urgent attention.

Image: Second state Image: Second state Children's Church

Children's Church meets during the 10:30 AM service and is led by our Youth and Family Minister, Rachel White. Children beyond nursery age are always welcome in the service and invited to sit with their parents in church. For more information about Children's Church, please contact Rachel White rwhite@trinityparish.org

We have a fully staffed nursery available for infants - 3 years from 9:00 AM to Noon on Sundays. The nursery is located in the former Flanagan Room in the hallway

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Open to all, Newgate is a day mission where faith, dedication and purpose come together to create a safe, Christ-centered community filled with compassion, hope, and renewed dignity. Each year, Newgate Mission provides hope in the form of life-changing services including 82,000 meals, housing referrals, a community, job readiness, health and hygiene, life's essentials and transportation. More than just serving meals, Newgate is about opening doors to the entire community, returning pride, offering friendship and support without judgement, rebuilding and uniting families, and helping those who are lost to discover new paths.



ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED

There are several Sundays in both August and September available for altar flowers. If you would like to give the gift of altar flowers during these months, please contact Bill Bane

at (903) 452-9075 or bbane@trinityparish.org. Minimum contribution is \$125. Thank you very much for helping beautify our altar for Sunday services.

USHERS NEEDED



If you would like to volunteer to help usher at the 10:30 AM Service, please contact Kathy Tate at (318) 834-3008 or Jeff Richardson in the church office at (903) 753-3366.



DID YOU KNOW

You can give to Trinity Episcopal Church online?

You can give to your pledge, altar flowers, or any other regularly used Trinity Episcopal Church fund. To give now, go to Trinityparish.org and click the giving tab at the top of the page.

TST Back to School Fair Monday, August 12 • Trinity School of Texas

Daughters of the King Monday, August 12 • 5:30 PM • Parish Hall

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 18 • During the 10:30 AM Service

Senior Mens' Dinner Tuesday, August 20 • 6:00 PM • Parish Hall

<u>WEEKLY</u>

Lectionary Bible Study Tuesdays at 7:00 AM • Silver Grizzly

Spirituality Group Tuesdays at 2:00 PM • Guild Hall • Starts back August 13th

> Crochet Group Wednesdays at 10:00 AM • Guild Hall

Wednesday Evening Dinner and Study Starts back September 4th.

> FAITH Women's Bible study Starts back September 5th.

MID-WEEK HOLY EUCHARIST Wednesdays at 12:15 PM



Sirthdays and Anniversaries

Dan Boren (8/02) Linda Wiggins (8/03) Joe Mraz (8/03) Carla Mann (8/03) Jim Shelby (8/04) Patti McElligott (8/05) Camp Stevens (8/07) Julie Fowler (8/07) David Wilcox (8/07) Mary Catherine Gest (8/07) Nathan Linseisen (8/08) Marie Pliler (8/09) Charlotte Wilks (8/09) Linda Leath (8/09) Michael Maly (8/13) Tom Gignilliat (8/13) Jessica Wilkinson (8/14) Beth Turner (8/15) Charles Davis (8/16) Micah Collins (8/18) John Griffin (8/22) George Pliler (8/24) Dawn Maly (8/26) Peggy Rochford (8/26) Sharon Keese (8/29) Vivian Shelby (8/31)

Mike and Marilyn Lewis (8/11) Kevin and Pamela Wittmayer (8/13) Charles and Linda Thomas (8/20) Robert and Micki Maly (8/21) Charles and Pamela Davis (8/26) John and Karen Hall (8/28)



Trinity Veteran's Group Meeting Minutes - Gayland Rushing

The third quarter 2024 Trinity Veteran's group meeting was held at 0900 in the Adult Sunday School room on Sunday, July 21, 2024. Kudos to the flag bearers at both services for our July fourth celebration, David Maly and Dee Shappell. Our next meeting requiring flag bearers will be Veteran's Day, November 10, 2024. Lynne Abernathey has volunteered for this duty at the 0800 service. If you would like to bear the flag at the 1030 service, call or email Gayland Rushing.

Gayland will be emailing the official Veteran's Administration NEWSLETTER, when he gets it via email, to all veterans. It is full of vital and informative information concerning your benefits.

It is never too early to begin initiating your plans regarding **Wreaths Across America**. Stan Wiley is our point of contact, 903-767-0858, for this national program at Trinity. He spoke briefly about this year's program. WAA is a non-profit organization and can be viewed online at *wreathsacrossamerica.org*. Their mission is to "Remember the fallen; honor those who serve; teach the next generation the value of freedom." This mission is carried out by thousands of volunteers across the nation as they lay wreaths on the graves of veterans throughout the fifty states and beyond. This annual national event will take place on December 14, 2024. Longview volunteers will meet at 0800 on 12/14/2024 at Rosewood Park Cemetery. You can go online at the aforementioned website and make deductible donations anytime. Remember, freedom has never been free!

When asked the question - "how many veterans have received their complimentary burial flag?", there are more nays than yays. I plan to bring the necessary forms to the next meeting, and we can each order his/her own flag. You can request a flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol on a specific date that is meaningful to you.

Even if you are not a veteran, but you have a question regarding the military way of life, feel free to call or email me.

God bless America and you, Gayland Rushing (903) 399-9503

Trinity Service Calendar August 2024 – Lectionary Year B

Date	August 4, 2024 11th Sunday after Pentecost	August 11, 2024 12th Sunday after Pentecost	August 18, 2024 13th Sunday after Pentecost	August 25, 2024 14th Sunday after Pentecost
1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Exodus 16:2-4,9-15 Psalm 78:23-29 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34:1-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34:1-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18 Psalm 34:15-22 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
Altar Team	Matteson Team	Baker Team	Collins Team	Snell Team
Coffee Hour	ТВА	Cherry Sikes	ТВА	ТВА
Flower Delivery	Nancy & Jim S.	Linda L.	Dot & Charles F.	Nancy & Jim S.
8:00 AM				
Verger	Dinah R.	Sallie T.	Rusty T.	Dinah R.
Ushers	Lynn A./Juanita T.	Maly Team	Peters Team	Bright Team
L. E. M.	Gayland R.	Mike A.	Jack W.	Gayland R.
10:30 AM				
Verger	Linda L.	Ben Bright	Bill K.	Linda L.
Ushers	Howard Team	Tate Team	Wilcox Team	Kathy G./Christine P.
Readers	Trevor English	Richard Kuna	Tricha Wilcox	Jessica Wilkinson M. Wilkinson
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Alan Robertson	Sammy York	Jeff Hart	Jim Sawyer
Acolytes	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3

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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