



TRINITY E-NEWS



From the Rector's Desk

Trinity Episcopal Church

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PHONE
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SUNDAY SERVICES
9:30 AM

Rev. Stephen Shortess
Rector
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Our Mission

In and through Christ, to restore people to unity with God and each other (2 Cor. 5:14-21)

Our Vision

Recognizing that we are all one in Christ, Trinity Episcopal Church is an embracing family, growing spiritually, and joyfully serving the community; a home that comforts the spirit; a place where people's gifts for ministry are identified, nourished, and shared; and place of learning where disciples are formed.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.trinitymcla.org

www.facebook.com/trinitymcla

As we remain in this season of Epiphany and we are compelled by Jesus to discover our Evangelism, how we Invite, Welcome, and Connect with people community matters. Please enjoy this review Mary Parmer's book Invite Welcome Connect by Trinity Vestry member, Judy Weber. Mary Parmer is a leading evangelist in the Episcopal Church and you may find out more about Mary Parmer's work at this link - <https://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com/>.
Fr. Stephen+

Invite, Welcome, Connect by: Mary Parmer

Have you heard of Invite Welcome Connect? This past year, Mary Parmer was the keynote speaker at our Diocesan Convention. Her ministry, which started in Texas, has spread across the U.S.--to Florida, New York, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

Chapter 1: Mary's story: A friend invited her to attend St. Mark's Episcopal church in Beaumont, TX. Overwhelmed by the liturgy, drawn to reverence, the music, the prayers, simple act of kneeling with others, Mary felt called by God. St. Stephen's in Beaumont, where she was confirmed, became her spiritual home. Mary moved to Austin to attend St. Edward's University where she graduated with a degree in religious studies. With her priest, she began creating and developing a model for newcomer ministry that revolved around welcoming visitors and following up with them. Sunday attendance went from 121 to 325, choir membership quadrupled, and the church's membership age dropped by ten years. Churches involved in the program reported immediate numerical growth, and the project spread to more than 100 congregations in the Diocese of Texas over the next three years. Congregations reported a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm in their parishioners.

Chapter 2: Invite! Presiding Bishop Michael Curry defined evangelism in his concluding remarks in his sermon at the 2015 Invite Welcome Connect Summit: "Evangelism is not what other people say that it is. Evangelism is sharing the faith that is in you and listening

and learning from the faith that's in somebody else. It's not just about you talking--it's about listening and sharing; it's about a relationship where God can get in the midst." Sharing your faith with actions can be just as stirring as sharing your faith with words. Examples are grace at meals and attending church regularly. Of course, sharing our faith with words as well as action is critical. Our newsletter and our website can be positive messages of faith.

Chapter 3: Welcome! "Hospitality is one form of worship. Come right in and disturb our perfect lives--you are the Christ for us today." When we open ourselves to receive those who have been defined as "other" because of race or class or ideology or neighborhood or age (yes, little children) or culture or gender or sexual orientation or physical ability or any host of hierarchies, when we approach the "other" with compassion, courage, curiosity, and anticipation of blessing, the world (and we) can be made new. How do we greet the stranger who shows up at our doorstep? Many people walk through the doors of churches and leave feeling as if they have been neither seen nor acknowledged. Jesus invites us to see one another in the way of love, and he models both relational evangelism and holy hospitality for us. The actions of welcoming newcomers may make all the difference in their experience of the holy Trinity, and even of divinity." Members who rush in at the beginning of the service and are the first to leave are doing little to grow the church because they are not allowing time to build relationships with those who have come to worship with us.

Chapter 4: Connect! "The essential of Connect is to love one another! We should pay close attention to helping newcomers connect with God and others, and we shouldn't be surprised that if people do not find connections and relationships, they go out the back door in search of this deep longing!

Chapter 5: Creativity: Sometimes when we try to welcome newcomers into our congregations, we simply talk too much. Listen more than you talk! How did they find the church? What are they looking for? What is the biggest change in their life this year? What is their passion? What makes their heart sing? What was their best vacation? What's on their bucket list? Do we even know these things about our friends in church?

Chapter 6: Obstacles and Opportunities: "We often think of ourselves as a friendly community when in reality we are a community of friends. Observe, if you will, any average Sunday morning coffee hour or luncheon and you will see people visiting primarily with friends, not the stranger in the room. Is the stranger sitting alone? Do we see Christ in the newcomers who walk in our doors? And more importantly, do they see Christ in us? Though we like to imagine our faith communities as open to all, outsiders often experience us as closed. One parishioner visited us on occasion then stopped coming. A few years later, she visited again, and we were so happy to see her again that we all welcomed her with open arms. She became an active member and later shared that the first time she visited, no one spoke to her. She could tell we were all really good friends, just not hers.

We each need to be seen, heard, welcomed, and affirmed. The ministry of Invite, Welcome, Connect if implemented prayerfully, intentionally, thoughtfully, and relationally, can meet these needs and desires.

Notes From the Office



Adult Christian Education meets Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m.



Trinity's Vestry will meet Sunday, February 16 following the Eucharist.



There will not be a Pot Luck Luncheon on February 2 (Super Bowl Sunday).
The next Pot Luck Luncheon is March 1.



Trinity's Ash Wednesday service with Imposition of Ashes is Wednesday, February 26 at 6 pm.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
EAGLE SCOUT
COURT OF HONOR



Please join us in celebrating the achievement of
Austin James Blair
as he is awarded the rank of Eagle Scout
in Boy Scout Troop 49

Sunday, February 9, 2020
2:00 pm

at
Trinity Episcopal Church – Parish Hall
302 Greenwood St.
Morgan City, Louisiana

casual dress or scouting attire

RSVP to hrblair@oceaneering.com or 985-397-4014

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

04 Ryan White
12 Kristyn Hughes
15 Debi Busbice
18 James Block
25 Jennie Rogers
28 Heather Blair

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

22 Hollyn and Mark Chellette



Please Pray For: Ellen, Nancy, Cathy and Barry, Jane and David, Kay and Mike, Roy, Norma, Lonnie, Sharon and Steve, Carolyn, Emilie, Sandy, Judy, Dean, Chuck, Joan and Charles, Margret, Lilly, Billy, Nolan, our partner in ministry: St. John's, for all Christians who are persecuted around the world, for all First Responders in our area, those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, our partners in mission at the Deaneries of Copan and Maya in Honduras and our sister parish Cristo Salvador; and our prayer partners in the Anglican Diocese of Tohoku, Japan; and the Anglican Diocese of Lango, Uganda.



A group of Trinity's ladies and Fr. Travers traveled to St. John's for their English Tea on February 1. They enjoyed delicious food, tea, and wonderful fellowship.

Heifer Fund

At Trinity's Annual Meeting, the youth of the church chose to purchase a goat, a sheep and an alpaca.

Our next collection for the Heifer Fund is March 1. Please consider adding to the loose offering that day to go into the Heifer Fund. There is also a jar in the Parish Hall for loose change. Go to <https://www.heifer.org> for more information.

Ministry Schedule February 2020

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23	February 26 Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm	March 1
CELEBRANT/ PREACHER	Fr. Stephen	Fr. Travers	Fr. Stephen	Fr. Lindsay	Fr. Stephen	Fr. Stephen
SERVER	Joshua J	Tim C	Robbie W	Tim C	Robbie W	Joshua J
CHALICE	Judy W	Tim C	Robbie W	Tim C	Robbie W	Tammy C
LECTOR	Mary H	Tammy C	Charles P	Jane W	Mary H	Judy W
INTERCESSOR	Mary H	Tammy C	Lisa P	Jane W	Mary H	Judy W
GREETERS	Clare C Peggy C	Drew M Ben M	Clare C Peggy C	Drew M Ben M	Peggy C	Clare C Peggy C
ALTAR GUILD	Mary H	Cathy B	Judy W Jennie R	Jane W		Mary H
VESTRY ON DUTY	Ed W	Tim C	Judy W	David W	Peggy C	Mary H

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 H E 9:30 Fr. Stephen NO Pot luck	3 Fr. Stephen 9-3:30	4 Fr. Stephen 12-7 5 Choir practice	5 8 pm A A's	6	7 6 pm A A's	8
9 H.E. 9:30 Fr. Travers Austin Blair 2 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor	10	11 5 Choir practice	12 Fr. Stephen 9-3:30 8 pm A A's	13 Fr. Stephen 9-3:30	14 6 pm A A's 	15
16 H E 9:30 Fr. Stephen Vestry	17 Fr. Stephen 9-3:30	18 Fr. Stephen 12-7 5 Choir practice Christian Ed 6 pm	19 8 pm A A's	20	21 6 pm A A's	22
23 H.E. 9:30 Fr. Lindsay	24	25 	26 Ash Wednesday/ Imposition of Ashes 6 pm Fr. Stephen 12-7 8 pm A A's	27 Fr. Stephen 9-3:30	28 6 pm A A's	29