

September 2015
Volume 4, Issue 5

Trinit-E News



Our Mission

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

This is an article written by my seminary professor of theology. Just read and reflect.

Fr. Doug

Jesus Christ, Karl Marx, and Michael Brown

[August 25, 2015 SeminarySouthwest](#)

Human labor is not a commodity. Recent articles on “Ferguson, One Year Out,” which I was reading alongside commentary on the Greek economic showdown, brought this central Marxist insight back to mind.



Image courtesy of US Department of Agriculture via www.flickr.com

When I read economic and political journalism, I do so not with the insights and perspectives of an economist or a political scientist, but rather as a theologian who did enough rooting around in the Marxists and political economists in graduate school to shape my sense of what markets are, what good they serve, and what it looks like when they twist toward perverse ends. So my Marxist insight leads me to a question that, though generated by Marx, is primarily for me a theological question: is it possible to pay attention to economic systems without abstracting from the flesh and blood, desires and experiences, of actual human actors? Or simply put, can we exchange goods in a way that foregrounds, rather than suppresses, our humanity?

This is a Marxist question because it was Marx who first theorized that a system that aims to turn all human labor into a unit of trade will not be able to avoid alienating the human spirit that goes into that production. The streets of Ferguson boiled over last August because a white officer shot an unarmed black man; the attempts to address the unrest with new legislation about police practices and court processes have so far been unable to deal with the root of the problem: We generate wealth in a way that entails as its dialectical twin an army of poor laborers with little or no opportunity for a better life.

(Continued, next page)

(Jesus, Cont.)

And in Ferguson, as in the rest of America, this dialectical twin aligns disproportionately with African-Americans.

But as a friend reminded me in conversation this summer, it is also a theological insight, even though I hear Marx wagging his fulsome beard at me as I say this. (The trouble with Marx's theology is that he imagined the word "God" to mean a kind of super-player (Über-economicus?) who controls and manipulates all creative exchange, and so would be a limit or simply a kaibosh on human freedom. A richer theology of divine provision and generative grace might have changed Marx's mind about a good many things, and even addressed some of the problematic aspects of his theory. But I digress.) When I look at images of the streets of Ferguson, both last August when they were on fire and this August when they are quieter but still signs of complex segregation and barriers to opportunity, I see the humanity which God assumes in the Incarnation. When we allow lives (black lives, poor lives, abused or addicted lives, lives that sit on the periphery of economic growth) to remain invisible behind the systems of wealth that ironically depend on them, we are doing something utterly at odds with the way God acts in Christ. God did not put in place a system of trickle-down salvation; God took on a particular human life, with all the sadness and joy and anguish and hunger and love that life entails, and said, "this is the way, the truth, and the life." The human birth of the divine Logos will always rebel against the sort of abstraction that implies that particular lives simply do not matter.

Human labor is not a commodity. Or it is not just a commodity. We work to make things we can sell (yes, including a curriculum for theological education). But the thing we make and sell does not replace the deep and complex human lives that lie in the shadows behind all the making and selling. When it does, then the poor and uneducated and unemployed and segregated classes have the most to lose, since commodification maximizes alienation on its margins. It may be years before a well-educated professor feels the affects of a system that values her only for what she produces; it will not take so long for the Jack-in-the-Box employee to come to this realization.

Where are particular lives invisible around you? Where is your own human spirit at risk of alienation? What would it mean to reflect God's entrance into human particularity in these places?



*Anthony Baker joined the seminary faculty in 2004. He teaches classes in both historical theology (focusing on a figure, an era, or a school of thought) and constructive theology (the building of persuasive arguments about God and creation). He is the author of *Diagonal Advance: Perfection in Christian Theology*, as well as various articles in *Modern Theology*, *Political Theology*, *The Journal of Anglican Studies*, *Anglican Theological Review*, and other journals and collections.*

**SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

01 Ellen Rink
 13 Brady Broussard
 15 Howard Rogers, Jr.
 15 Hayden Rink
 16 Destiny Griffin
 18 Georgia Landry
 22 Riley Webster
 23 Rhonda Dennis
 26 Frances Bazet
 28 Mary Hughes
 29 Andrew Mauro
 30 Mason White



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3—Ryan and Kelly White
 17—Duane and Carrie Lodrigue
 24—Gordon and Tamara
 Jones

September 2015
 Ministry Schedule

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27	October 4
CELEBRANT/ PREACHER	Morning Prayer Judy Weber	Fr. Doug	Fr. Travers	Fr. Doug	Fr. Travers
PREACHER		“	“	“	“
SERVER (S)		Sean Dennis Austin Blair	Currie Scheffsky	Sean Dennis Austin Blair	Tim Cheramie
CHALICE		Irving Blatt	Charles Parsiola	David Webster	Tim Cheramie
LECTOR	Jane Webster	Elizabeth Blatt	Lisa Parsiola	Jane Webster	Irving Blatt
INTERCESSOR		Elizabeth Blatt	Lisa Parsiola	Judy Weber	Elizabeth Blatt
GREETERS	Peggy Coats Ray Kunst	Doug Osborne Debi Busbice	Ray Kunst Ed Bell	Ben Mauro Drew Mauro	Peggy Coats Ray Kunst
ALTAR GUILD	Mary Hughes	Cathy Broussard	Judy Weber Jenny Rogers	Jane Webster Roy Mellish	Mary Hughes
VESTRY ON DUTY	Mary Hughes	Roger Busbice	Lisa Parsiola	Veeder Bell	Peggy Coats

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Holy Eucharist 6pm Alcoholics Anonymous 8 p.m.	3	4 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 p.m.	5
6 Morning Prayer 8 am	7	8 Bible Study 6:30 pm	9 Alcoholics Anonymous 8 p.m.	10	11 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 p.m.	12
13 Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Fr. Doug Pot Luck Luncheon	14 Vestry 6 pm	15 Bible Study 6:30 pm	16 Holy Eucharist 6pm Alcoholics Anonymous 8 p.m.	17	18 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 p.m.	19
20 Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Fr. Travers	21	22 Bible Study 6:30 pm	23 Alcoholics Anonymous 8 p.m.	24	25 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 p.m.	26
27 Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Fr. Doug Confirmation Class	28	29 Bible Study 6:30 pm	30 Holy Eucharist 6pm Alcoholics Anonymous 8 p.m.	1	2 Alcoholics Anonymous 6 p.m.	3 Elizabeth Romero Memorial, 1 pm

PRAYERS

Please Pray For: Repose of the soul of Mary Louise White, mother of Ed White, Georgia, Frances and Bob, Ara Mae, Glen, Ellen and Wayne, Nancy, Cathy and Barry, Jeanette, Ed, Frances, Fr. Roy, Rose and B.G., Ana, Sandra, Kay and Mike, for members of Morgan City Police Department; 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.

Upcoming Bishop Visit

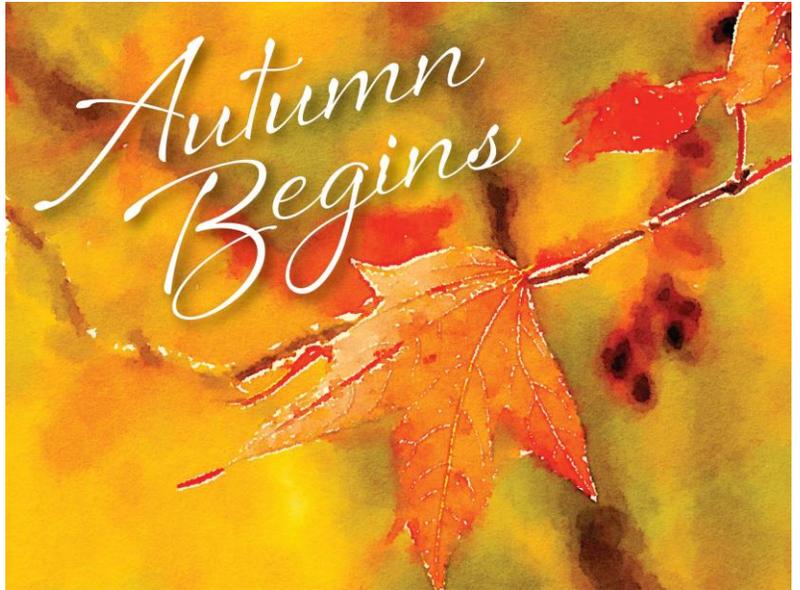
Bishop Thompson will be making his annual visitation on November 15. Anyone to be confirmed or received is invited to classes following the 9:30 Eucharist on the Sundays that Fr. Doug is here beginning September 13th. Please contact Fr. Doug at 832-444-8153 or dnlasiter@comcast.net if you are interested or have any questions.

"Autumn Song"

Now's the time when children's noses
All become as red as roses
And the color of their faces
Makes me think of orchard places
Where the juicy apples grow,
And tomatoes in a row.

Come then, find your ball and racket,
Pop into your winter jacket,
With the lovely bear-skin lining.
While the sun is brightly shining,
Let us run and play together
And just love the autumn weather.

—Katherine Mansfield



Trinity Episcopal Church

302 Greenwood Street
P.O. Box 1776
Morgan City, LA 70381

PHONE:
(985) 384-7629

Sunday Services
9:30 AM

Fr. Doug Lasiter

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.

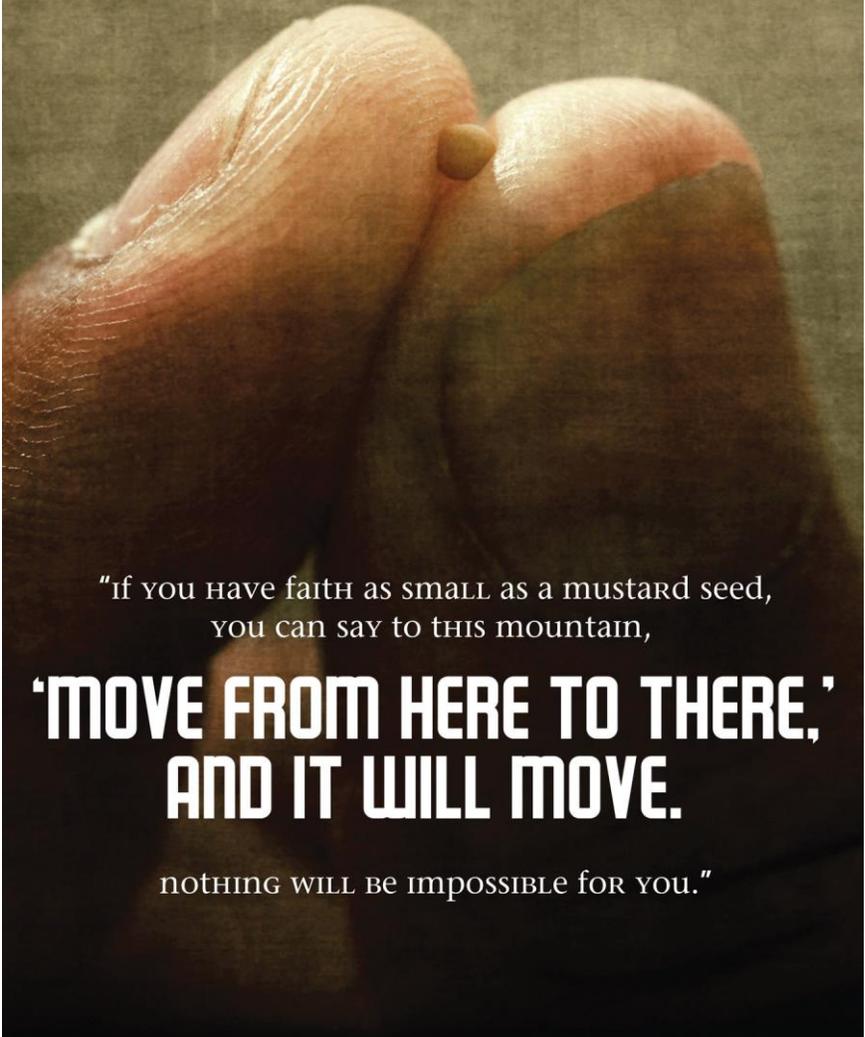
We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.trinitymcla.org

www.facebook.com/trinitymcla

MATTHEW 17:20



"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mountain,

**'MOVE FROM HERE TO THERE,'
AND IT WILL MOVE.**

nothing will be impossible for you."