



## Our Mission

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

## Vanishing Christians

This is a small selection from a blog of a Christian missionary in Syria. This is what persecution looks like.

Gabriel's journey had taken its toll emotionally. The brave missionary had been through ten checkpoints to reach the outskirts of the Syrian capital, Damascus. Each guard who asked to see his credentials could have been an ISIS militant in disguise, capable of stealing his precious cargo, or worse, taking his life. Although he had reached his desired destination, the bombs and gunfire in the distance reminded him that his mission was far from over.

Like many missionaries in the Middle East, Gabriel had done everything in his power to provide aid and the Gospel message to the millions of Syrian refugees fleeing civil war and ISIS terrorism. But as he participated in outreaches to refugee camps near the Syrian border, a glaring mystery began to present itself. Christians were nowhere to be found. It was as if they had simply vanished.

Five years ago, before the war in Syria began, over 10% of the country's population of 26 million identified themselves as Christ followers. That's over 2.6 million Christians. Gabriel had yet to meet a single one. "So where did they all go?" he began asking himself.

Using his contact network, Gabriel was allowed access inside Syria to explore the war-torn area. What he found was shocking. Many followers of Jesus had fled their homes for safer regions outside of Damascus. When asked why they had not attempted to leave the country with other refugees, they gave an interesting explanation. The refugee camps in bordering countries are controlled by Muslims. As a minority group, believers are surrounded by the Islamic faith, a religion dead set on preventing Christians from freely worshiping.

So although ISIS presses in on every side, many Syrian Christians decided to band together and stay. On his first trip inside, Gabriel identified an area filled with over 1,000 impoverished families, most of whom had left all they owned as they fled their homes for safety. They found shelter in small rooms, cramming up to 10 people in a single tiny living space. Food and other essential resources were scarce and some of the displaced families even resorted to searching through the trash for their next meal.

During that first fateful trip, a mission of hope was born for Gabriel. Risking the continual dangers of being in a war zone, our brave partner now makes the journey inside Syria each month to offer life-sustaining food, essential living supplies, discipleship, and the message that the church around the world remembers their plight.

*(Continued next page)*

*(Vanishing, cont.)*

Recently, Gabriel sent an update from his latest mission where he met Victor and Asil. This precious elderly couple was captured by ISIS before they could escape their city. Victor was tortured three different times in an attempt to make him recant his faith in Jesus. Asil was beaten so badly that she lost most of her mobility and was forced to remain in bed. Miraculously, the two were spared from death but were thrown out of their home without any of their possessions. With the last of their strength they made the long journey to Damascus where they hoped to find safety.

Please pray for all those being persecuted and for those willing to risk their lives for the Gospel of Christ.

Blessings,

Fr. Doug

## SCOUT SUNDAY

February 5, 2017

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8th (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. All scouts and adult leaders are encouraged to wear their uniforms to church on this day.

### ***A Psalm for Scouts and Scouters***

*The Lord God is our Great Scoutmaster who provides all our needs.*

*He lets us camp in forests tall and meadows green.*

*He leads us on trails besides waters deep and still, brooks babbling,  
streams rushing, and rivers raging.*

*He restores our bodies, minds and souls, even as we observe the eagle  
soaring to greater heights above.*

*He encourages the Eagle Scout in his upward climb.*

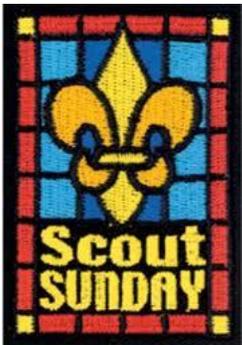
*He teaches Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers to  
live the Scout Oath and Law.*

*Even though the trails may lead through dark valleys with towering  
mountains, we are courageous because he leads us onward.*

*He continually blesses us with food for mind and body.*

*Even when our enemies dislike or distrust us, he blesses us with the  
gifts of love and forgiveness.*

*Surely, his goodness and mercy will sustain us all the days of our lives.  
And, when we climb the final trail through the awesome pass that leads  
to the Great Councilfire, we shall join those who traveled the trail  
before us and joyfully live with him forever!*



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 02 Mary Grace Salmon
- 04 Ryan White
- 06 Currie Scheffsky
- 08 Cody Billiot
- 12 Kristyn Hughes
- 15 Debi Busbice
- 18 James Block
- 24 John Osborne
- 25 Jennie Rogers
- 28 Heather Blair



**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 22 Hollyn and Mark Chellette

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE February 2017**

|                                 | Feb 5                    | Feb 12                    | Feb 19                  | Feb 26        | March 1<br>Ash Wednesday          | March 5                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>CELEBRANT/<br/>OFFICIANT</b> | Fr. Doug Lasiter         | Fr. Travers               | Fr. Doug Lasiter        | Fr. Travers   | Fr. Doug Lasiter<br>Noon and 6 pm | Fr. Doug Lasiter         |
| <b>PREACHER</b>                 | "                        | "                         | "                       | "             | "                                 | "                        |
| <b>SERVERS</b>                  | Joshua Jones             | Sean D                    | Tim Cheramie            | Sean D        |                                   | Joshua J                 |
| <b>CHALICE</b>                  | Mary Hughes              | John Stork                | Tim Cheramie            | Charles P     |                                   | Mary H                   |
| <b>LECTOR</b>                   | Emily L                  | Judy Weber                | Mary H                  | Lisa P        |                                   | Emily L                  |
| <b>INTERCESSOR</b>              | Dez Kapp                 | Judy Weber                | Dez Kapp                | Lisa P        |                                   | Emily L                  |
| <b>GREETERS</b>                 | Ray Kunst<br>Peggy Coats | Doug Osborne<br>Ray Kunst | Drew Mauro<br>Ben Mauro | Ray K<br>Ed B |                                   | Ray Kunst<br>Peggy Coats |
| <b>ALTAR GUILD</b>              | Mary Hughes              | Cathy B                   | Judy W<br>Jennie R      | Jane W        |                                   | Mary Hughes              |
| <b>VESTRY ON<br/>DUTY</b>       | Peggy C                  | Judy W                    | Tim C                   | Doyle D       |                                   | Sam Jones                |

Please  
Pray  
for...



Ellen and Wayne, Nancy, Astrid, Cathy and Barry, Jeanette, Ed, Rose and B.G., Kay and Mike, Jane and David, Bridgette, for all Christians who are persecuted around the world, for members of Morgan City Police Department:, those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, all the flood victims in Louisiana, 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.



## Surprise Party

The children of Howard and Amalia Rogers hosted a surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party for the couple at Fleury Hall on January 28<sup>th</sup>. A great time was had by all, with guests traveling from far away as Texas and Alabama to celebrate their birthdays with them.

# February 2017

| Sun  | Mon | Tue   | Wed   | Thu | Fri  | Sat |
|--|-----|---|---|-----|--|-----|
|  |     |   | 1<br>Eucharist & Anointing 12:15 pm<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous 8 pm   | 2   | 3<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous 6 pm  | 4   |
| 5<br>Holy Eucharist<br>9:30 am<br>Vestry Meeting<br>after HE | 6   | 7<br>Choir Practice 5 pm<br>Bible Study 6 pm<br><br><i>Fr. Doug away, conference in Lafayette</i> | 8<br><i>Eucharist cancelled</i><br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous 8 pm   | 9   | 10<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous 6 pm<br><br><i>Fr. Doug at SECC Feb 10-12 Sr. Hr Rally</i> | 11  |
| 12<br>Holy Eucharist<br>9:30 am                              | 13  | 14<br>Choir Practice 5 pm<br>Bible Study 6 pm   | 15<br><i>Eucharist cancelled</i><br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous 8 pm<br><br><i>Fr. Doug on vacation</i>           | 16  | 17<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous 6 pm   | 18  |
| 19<br>Holy Eucharist<br>9:30 am                              | 20  | 21<br>Choir Practice 5 pm<br>Bible Study 6 pm   | 22<br>Eucharist & Anointing 12:15 pm<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous 8 pm  | 23  | 24<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous 6 pm   | 25  |
| 26<br>Holy Eucharist<br>9:30 am                              | 27  | 28<br>Choir Practice 5 pm<br>Bible Study 6 pm   | <b>Mar 1</b><br><b>Ash Wednesday, HE</b><br><b>and Imposition of</b><br><b>Ashes</b><br><b>12:15 and 6 pm</b> |     |  |     |

## Trinity Episcopal Church

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

PHONE:  
(985) 384-7629

Sunday Services  
9:30 AM

Father 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](http://www.trinitymcla.org)

[www.facebook.com/trinitymcla](https://www.facebook.com/trinitymcla)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fr. Doug will be at a conference in Lafayette Feb 7-8. He will be at SECC for the Sr. High Rally Feb 10-12. He will be on vacation from Feb 13-17. In an emergency, he will be available by phone at 832-444-8153.
- Mid-week Eucharist is cancelled on Feb 8 and Feb 15 as Fr. Doug will be out of town.
- Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes on March 1 at 12:15 and 6:00 pm.