



Our Mission

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

From the Rector's Desk

Recently, our nighttime routine with Abigail changed. It used to be that I would read a story first, tell Abigail goodnight, and then Jennifer would follow me reading a different story to Abigail. However, Abigail decided that now it was my turn to read last to her. Which really isn't too surprising because this sort of scenario has happened before with her.

What was surprising, though, was that Abigail decided that I should read my books about God to her. The first thing I realized was that Abigail, who has always had a little trouble falling asleep, fell asleep much faster after reading books about God. Perhaps that was her plan all along. It seemed the gift I was able to give her by reading "my" books was, and is, helping her fall asleep more easily.

However, I slowly realized that Abigail, by her own request, had given me a gift. A gift of time to do something that all priests need to do, yet have trouble finding time to do. Read. And as I have begun to notice her gift of time to me more over the past few weeks, I've had to accept that, much more than she is my daughter, she is God's child. Therefore, her gift of time is truthfully, a gift from God. In addition, more than I am her dad, I am God's, and my gift to her of reading boring books to help her fall asleep, is not from me. It is a gift from God (Somebody got a raw deal).

We in the church make much of giving this time of year. Rightfully so. We need money to continue the mission of the church, to maintain the buildings and grounds, repair parking lots, and roofs. We need time and talent to prepare gumbos and sing in the choir. Even energy is necessary for new ideas for ways we can improve as the body of Christ. All these things we need for both the worship life and mission life of the church.

I think the truth about gift giving, whether we give to the church, or some other organization, is that sustaining a generosity only takes place if there is an expectation that the gift is not a loss to the giver. More than that, that in fact, the gift is a gain. That logic though does not make gift giving selfish.

The Cross of Christ is the most extreme form of giving the world has ever known. A gift of salvation to us. I do not believe that God in Christ sacrificed for selfish reasons but so that Christ may be in us, so that Christ may act in us, and that we may live by the Holy Spirit. So that God may, "equip you with every good thing to do His will. And may He accomplish in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever (Hebrew 13.21)."

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(Desk, cont.)

In this sense, we are very much instruments of God. By the indwelling of Christ in us, when we give, it is really Christ is giving through us. Moreover, by our own free choice to give, we have the joy and the delight to be modes of which God's love throughout the world is received.

We often recite on Sundays, when the offertory is brought up, "Of thine own have we given thee." "And from what we receive we give to you." (Don't worry if there is music playing I say these words anyway). Essentially, we are saying what King David knew, that all things are from God (1 Chronicles 29:14). That means us too!

Yet, I believe we are asked by God to not let our generous spirit remain idle. Because our spiritual gifts are not just for ourselves, but they are also for others. We are intended to be givers of ourselves, God gifts, so that we may be enriched ourselves.

What and how we give will result itself in various ways amongst us. Some of us will provide financially, some by talent. Some by staying all night at the volunteer fire station only to arrive early Sunday morning to acolyte. Some by making sure the altar is dressed with fragrant flowers. Some by making sure the local food pantry has a food supply. Even others by giving their dad time to read a boring book about God.

There can and will always be many ways to give. And my prayer is, that even now that stewardship season is ending, that we as a community will continue to consider ways that we can give. How can we give our ideas, our love, our hopes and dreams for our church community and the communities where we live?

More than that, I pray we consider the ways in which we can more fully give our own selves to God so that God can continue to use us as his instruments of love for the world.

In Christ,
Fr. Stephen+



**Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers
needed! Please consider helping if
you can.**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03 Judy Weber
04 Stephen Swiber
06 Anne Lee Parsiola
10 Ana Rogers
10 Norma Jones
14 Grant Garber
16 Elizabeth May
17 Sara Moore
17 Clare Cheramie
21 Carrie Lodrigue
23 Duane Lodrigue
27 Gerald Kapp
29 Spring Rink Aucoin



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

7 Bob and Frances Bazet
10 Tim and Clare Cheramie
25 Gerald and Dez Kapp
30 Bill and Joyce Baker



Beth Lewis, CEO of 1517 Media, blogged about a favorite holiday tradition: inviting over people who'd otherwise be alone. Her grandchildren prepared hand-made place cards, wrapped small gifts for the guests and helped cook the meal.

Then one year, Thanksgiving happened to coincide with a cross-country move for Grandma and Grandpa. Chaos and stress almost buried the tradition – until Lewis's 9-year-old granddaughter asked nonchalantly, "Who's joining us for dinner this year?"

Lewis writes: "In the busyness of moving, it hadn't even occurred to me. But, for her, it is simply what our family does!" So they extended some invitations, ate on paper plates among moving boxes and had a joyous time. Lewis was proud of her granddaughter for the reminder that hospitality is a value worth practicing and modeling – and even turning into a holiday tradition!

Please Pray For: Ellen, Nancy, Astrid, Cathy and Barry, Jeanette, Kay and Mike, Jane and David, Cameron, Robi and Doug, Roy, Norma, Elizabeth and Irving, Lonnie, George, Trinity, Melvin, Ed, Aaron, 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.



Ministry Schedule November 2018					
	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25	Dec 2
CELEBRANT/ Officiant	Fr. Travers	Fr. Shortess	Fr. Lindsay	Fr. Shortess	Fr. Travers
PREACHER	"	"		"	"
SERVER(S)	Joshua J	Sean D	Austin B	Tim C	Joshua J
CHALICE	Mary H	Judy W	Lisa P	Tim C	Mary H
LECTOR	Tammy C	Mary H	Lisa P	Jane W	Elizabeth B
INTERCESSOR	Tammy C	Dez K	Charlie P	Jane W	Elizabeth B
GREETERS	Peggy C	Drew M Ben M	Peggy C	Drew M Ben M	Peggy C
ALTAR GUILD	Mary H	Cathy B	Judy W Jennie R	Jane W	Mary H
VOD	Doyle D	Judy W	Sam J	Drew M	Mary H

"God is nigh"

The earliest official reference to using "Taps" at a military funeral is described in an 1891 manual. During the Civil War, a Union soldier "was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods." Because it wasn't safe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, Captain John Tidball decided the sounding of "Taps" would be an appropriate substitute ceremony.

Previously, "Taps" signaled the end of a soldier's work day, but it has since come to honor the end of his or her earthly life. Horace Trim's lyrics remind us of God's constant presence:

Day is done, gone the sun
 From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
 All is well, safely rest
 God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days
 'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky
 As we go, this we know
 God is nigh.

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30 Eucharist Fr. Travers Pot Luck	5	6 Choir Practice 5 pm	7 Fr. Shortess in the office 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	8 Fr. Shortess in the office 9:30 Morning Prayer	9 6 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	10
11 9:30 Eucharist Fr. Shortess <i>Veteran's Day</i> 	12 Fr. Shortess in the office	13 Fr. Shortess in office. 9:30 Morning Prayer. Choir Practice 5 pm. Adult Christian Ed 6:30 pm	14 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	15	16 6 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	17
18 9:30 Eucharist Fr. Lindsay	19	20 Choir Practice 5 pm	21 Fr. Shortess in the office 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	22 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 	23 6 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	24
25 9:30 Eucharist Fr. Shortess	7 Fr. Shortess in the office	27 Fr. Shortess in office. 9:30 Morning Prayer. Choir Practice 5 pm. Adult Christian Ed 6:30 pm	28 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	29	30 6 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	

Trinity Episcopal Church

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PHONE:
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Sunday Services
9:30 AM

Fr. Stephen Shortess

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

