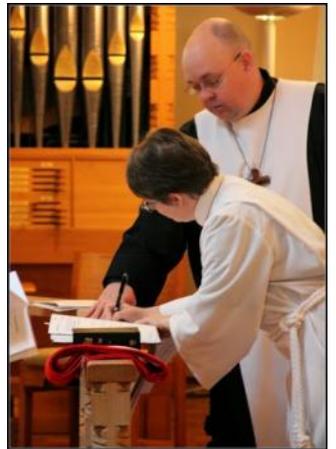


December 2014

Trinity Episcopal Church
Marble Falls, Texas

Trinity Trumpet

Trinity's Seminarian Ordained Deacon



Congratulations to the Rev. Claire Cowden, pictured above with the Rt. Rev. Scott Meyer, and at right signing the Declaration at her recent ordination to the transitional diaconate. A senior at the Seminary of the Southwest, Claire was ordained December 13 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Lubbock. Photos of the service may be found here: <https://plus.google.com/.../106149.../albums/6093560391116904369>

Thank you for your
generous giving;
pledges highest ever

On behalf of your Stewardship Committee, I would like to thank the members of Trinity Episcopal Church for your unselfish gifts. Pledges are the most in number and dollar amount the church has ever received. This is a great statement as to your commitment to the work we have before us at Trinity.

One more stewardship reminder: As we enter the new year, some of us will be looking at our estate planning for the future. I hope you will consider Trinity in your plans. You need look no further than the new addition we are working on at this time to know how important this is. Merry Christmas To All! *John Watts*

New Vestry Nominees

The Vestry Nominating Committee (made up of outgoing vestry members Tony Koby, Jim Marquess, and Dianna Walton) has concluded their work, and raised up three outstanding candidates to begin three-year vestry terms in 2015: David Ellis, Louise Hancock, and Mike Walton.

As is our custom at Trinity, the Nominating Committee puts forth three candidates to fill three positions, and they will be elected by acclamation at our Annual Parish Meeting on January 18th. Please join me in giving thanks to God for these good and faithful servants and their willingness to step into positions of leadership during this exciting time of transition here at Trinity, and for the Nominating Committee for identifying such wonderful candidates! *The Rev. David Sugeno*

From the Rector: *The Rev. David Sugeno*



In case you haven't noticed, we've got some construction going on at Trinity. It has been a lot of fun for us all, no doubt, to look out of our sanctuary windows and watch our new parish hall slowly take shape. Following a short weather delay, the slab was finally poured, and since then things have flown along, as a new building has seemed to take shape before our very eyes.

Now construction has moved into our existing church which might be a little less fun. Even as I write this, construction workers with hammers and pry-bars are in the church knocking out walls. The narthex is being closed off, so that we can expand our seating and build a new narthex. For the next couple of months we will enter



and exit the church through the office on the far end of the building. We will share coffee and refreshments in the church office and work-room. Our fellowship before and after services will occur in cramped quarters, and our worship may well be impacted in ways that we cannot yet predict. I do not expect any of this to affect the quality of our worship, nor our fellowship or any programs.

When I worry about the logistical challenges that might be posed by our remodeling work, I think back to the first time I ever visited Trinity at Easter 2004 while I was still in seminary. At the time, Trinity was in the midst of its last major construction project. We were in the "old"

The traditional hand-stitched ornaments will stay in storage this year, but we will still enjoy a profusion of poinsettia!

sanctuary, but the windows had been removed and boarded over. It felt like we were worshipping in a construction zone, and the church felt cramped and unattractive. But none of this affected the joy of our celebration of the Resurrection, nor the love and the fellowship that I experienced, long before I had any idea that I would be called as Trinity's rector. There was a sense of excitement as the parish pulled together in the work of building a beautiful new worship space.

That sense of love, fellowship, and excitement seem to fill our church even now, as we continue in that labor. We are focused, not on the minor inconveniences the next couple of months might bring, but the ministries that will be made possible when construction is complete, our expanded ability to serve God and His people. The Long-range Planning Commission is coordinating our efforts to envision the ways in which we might best use our new spaces; from new ministries to serve the broader community to opportunities for fellowship, worship, special events, and meeting space for outside groups.

Our Christmas services may well be a bit cramped this year, as we navigate the challenges of a major construction effort, but we will, once again, celebrate the mystery of God's incarnation, even as we celebrate the exciting future that He holds for our church.



From the Associate Rector: *The Rev. Cathy Boyd*



The first time I was asked to help serve communion, I declined. It was at the annual conference of the national association of Episcopal Communicators, which met that year in New York, and the conference Eucharist was being held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

This was my first time with the Communicators, and I found the whole thing more than a little intimidating. We had met with then-Presiding Bishop Ed Browning that day. It was my first time to New York, and everything just felt so huge, so legendary. (This was back in the post-Bernie Goetz years, so New York still had that crazy-random-dangerous vibe. I remember being stunned that I survived riding the subway.)

As the conference group gathered at the cathedral, an in-charge man named Jim was moving around the crowd recruiting participants. I don't imagine he had been told by God to ask me; he was just filling spots.

But his invitation to "take one of the chalices" came as a shock. What I said was something like "Oh. Thanks. Um. No, thanks." What I was thinking was



"Are you kidding? Me? Here, in a cathedral? I'm a stranger...I wouldn't know what to say...people might notice me...I might do it wrong." Thanks anyway, but I'd rather not.

Then, immediately, as Jim moved on through the group, I started thinking: Rather not what? Get involved? Take part? I mean, how hard can it be? This is freaking *St. John's Cathedral!* It was nice to be asked; nobody ever asks me to do anything. So I tracked Jim down and said, Actually: yes. Thank you.

I have no idea who preached, who presided, or what. But two snapshot-memories are burned on my mind. The first is me sunk deep in a choir stall way up

front, rehearsing over and over under my breath during the Liturgy of the Word: "*the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation? The blood of Christ? The cup of salvation? The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.*"

The second memory is all the hands. As I moved with the cup along the altar rail, I forgot to worry about forgetting my part. As the worshippers stood or knelt there, they held out their hands. And these hands—dozens of hands of strangers—were the most beautiful things I had ever seen. Large and small, callused and soft, nail-polished and plain: there was such sweetness in the way the hands received the bread, and helped guide the cup.

This experience, like the soft blow to a temple gong, has reverberated in my mind, on and on for nearly 25 years. Over the years, I have had many opportunities to serve worshippers at the altar rail. Sometimes they stride up and kneel with a thud and sometimes they seem to be tip-toeing, a little hesitant to bother anybody. But always, the hands they hold out don't just receive. They create the moment.

This is why we say the liturgy is "a work of the people."

Annual Meeting

Your Trinity Church's
Annual Parish Meeting
will be
Sunday, January 18, 2015

Plan to join your parish family for this important annual event, where we celebrate where God has brought us, and look into the future with the election of new vestry members.
There will be one worship service at 10 a.m.

Kathy Kasperek Receives Area Community Volunteer Award

Trinity's own Kathy Kasperek received the Highland Lakes Legacy Fund Community Volunteer Award on November 6, 2014. Since Kathy moved to Marble Falls in 1984 with her two children to be near her parents, she has been active in many community organizations, serving as a volunteer, employee, officer and board member. These organizations include the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center, the Burnet County Literacy Board, The Helping Center, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for the Highland Lakes, Marble Falls Rotary Club, Rotary Dental Suites, Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes, and many others. She also has written grants for Burnet Consolidated ISD and Marble Falls ISD, as well as for other organizations, with grants received totaling approximately \$5,500,000. At Trinity Episcopal Church Kathy has served as Senior Warden, Vestry Clerk, a lay Eucharist minister, Family Life Chair, Long Range Planning, Seminarian support committee, Confirmation Class Instructor, member of Daughters of the King, sponsor of an ecumenical youth group, and founding Chair of the Ministry and Outreach Commission.

Q: What led you to begin volunteering in Marble Falls?

Kathy: I left a bad home situation and brought my children to Marble Falls where my parents lived. To give back to the community, I began to volunteer with the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center, and subsequently joined the professional staff there as a Client Advocate.

Q: Reflecting on your career working with non-profit organizations, what is one of your favorite or most significant accomplishments?

Kathy: I like putting together win-win projects. The largest was probably the Mission of Mercy event with the Texas Dental Association in Burnet. We served about 1000 people (with the same number of volunteers). The biggest win was the good energy and lack of turf issues with people from throughout Burnet County working together to serve others. Volunteers didn't want to stop at the end of their shifts, and a number of recipients stayed to volunteer after having dental work done.

Q: How has volunteering affected your personal and spiritual life?

Kathy: Finding a way to make peoples' lives better energizes me, from identifying the need to finalizing the concept. Seeing people who needed help coming to the place where they themselves are mentors helping others makes my heart smile.

Q: What changes have you observed in volunteering in Burnet County since you moved here?

Kathy: There are more opportunities to volunteer now, more groups serving more groups. In some ways there is less duplication. However, we seem to be starting a 'competing for the poor' culture. Sometimes we lose that the goal is to help others, not take credit for helping others.

Q: If someone wanted to volunteer in our community or Church, how would you suggest getting started?

Kathy: People should decide their areas of interest and what talents and time they want to invest. For example, are you interested in helping with children? Do you want to work one-on-one with children? Do you want to help with office work or fundraising? Do you want to put in four hours a week or four hours a month? After deciding the area of interest and the level of commitment, research what is available and in need of your offerings. Check out the organization by talking to staff and other volunteers.

Q: What do you envision for future of volunteering in the Marble Falls area?

Kathy: There are lots of opportunities, and I do not see that changing. I do pray we will work to build up the organizations that are helping, rather than making splinter groups offering duplicate services. We have lots of work to do and need to replenish volunteers for the work already being done. In addition, we have lots of needs that are not being addressed. In our groups we have identified needs: transportation, mental health, transitional/affordable housing, etc. These are big issues that will need lots of partners. There is nothing we can't do.



Ministry & Outreach Commission

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, members of the Ministry and Outreach Commission presented checks throughout the fall to eight non-profit organizations.

Each of these groups ministers daily to members of our community who are in difficult situations. Members of the Commission presented each check. The organizations supported this fall include the following:

- Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)
- Christian Women’s Job Corps
- Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center
- Hill Country Children’s Advocacy Center
- Open Door Recovery House
- Phoenix Center
- The Helping Center

With these donations, these organizations are able make a difference in the lives of the clients they serve. Through these donations, Trinity is shining God’s light to illuminate the darkness of our broken world. As this light spreads, Trinity is becoming recognized as a major Christian presence in our community.

In the fall of 2014, Ministry and Outreach also:

- served lunch to women pursuing job readiness skills at the Christian Women’s Job Corps
- organized the donation of pies from Trinity’s bakers to Mission Marble Falls for the Thanksgiving lunch on November 26
- organized the Fifth Annual Giving Fair in which members of our parish could experience an alternative

*Christ has no
body now on
earth but
yours
yours are the hands
with which He is to
bless us now*

giving opportunity at church by supporting organizations that minister to clients in difficult situations in our community
· began the process of identifying new activities to meet community needs so that our new facility will be a beacon to people in our community who face challenges in their lives.

Madeleine Manigold

Representatives of Trinity Church presented donations to (among others): CASA, Phoenix Center, the Helping Center, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes.



If you ask me, the Light is winning

Ashley Harper-Oberle

Even though in recent years I have watched less and less TV, I do enjoy True Detective, an HBO drama about two police detectives solving the case of a serial murderer. Rust Cohle is one of the detectives. His daughter is long dead, and the aftermath is keeping him bound like Prometheus.

Rust says he believes in nothing, that time is nothing more than a flat circle in which we are doomed to live on a loop until we die and then: nothing. The entire drama is centered on his hardness, his hurt, his inability to move beyond where he is and his resolute determination there are no secrets to the universe, only shadows. Here's a guy who's been dealt such a blow that he did the only thing he could do: he shut down. He became a nihilist. He made the truth (or his version of it) so rote that it didn't really matter what transpired.

But in the midst of his belief in nothing, Rust began seeking, without really knowing he was looking. Then, after a near-death experience, Rust tells his partner and friend that in the cataclysmic moment of his almost-demise, he felt his daughter there beyond the darkness in a different layer of existence. Not her material self, but her *love* and his father's *love* in the purest form. So pure that it in the darkness of death it consumed him and caused him to 'lose his definitions.'

Life presents us with all sorts of challenges and choices. Some are our own and some are thrust upon us for better or worse. Even the seemingly 'easy' things are fraught with unknowns and perils. Life is messy. It can

*“Once there
was only dark.
If you ask me, the
light's winning.”*

Rust Cohle

HBO's True Detective

be painful, aggravating, hurtful, sorrowful... It can also be brilliant, exciting, wonder-filled, happy, humorous and beautiful.

It is what you do with any moment you are

given that defines who you are. I certainly wouldn't presume to tell you how to live your life (well, I might, but who would listen?) but if given the chance to fly, do you really elect to stay on the porch?

I had a dream a while back about swimming in the lake after dark. I was forced into the water by the urgency of saving someone I loved from drowning. It was unclear who I was saving, but it was imperative I get in the water and dive down as far as I could, being able to see nothing. As soon as I hit the water, a bit of panic set in. I could not tell what which way was up and which was down. I had no idea of the depth of the water I was in and it seemed like everything was swirling in slow motion but my heart and head were racing at top speed. I felt the pressure building, the all-encompassing fear stealing my breath. I was swimming in circles and I knew this, but felt absolutely no way to stop. Then, in a moment of complete oneness with myself, my God and my surroundings...I let go. The instant I did, all my doubts, fears, anxiety, uncertainty and terror melted away. It did not matter which way was up or down, time held no weight of any kind. I was surrounded by light. I was peaceful and began to swim, sure of my purpose and resolute in my charge. I awoke without really knowing if I had saved the day or not, but I'm fairly certain that wasn't the important part of the dream.

Letting go is never easy. We hold on to what we know and we cherish the way things *were* with ferociousness. This is somehow easier than allowing ourselves to imagine something new. Fear is a great motivator. So is hurt. Or uncertainty. Or safety.

Rust Cohle was paralyzed by what *had* been, never allowing himself to dream of *what may come*. In the end, he was given a chance to right his life, to let the sun shine in. To live his life present in the love he so desperately missed and have the life he deserved. We are all worthy of this life.

God did not breathe life into us to have us squander it away. I'm pretty sure He gave us a bit of himself so that we might actually feel what it's like to be *divine*.

Can you do it from the porch? Possibly. Can you do it soaring amongst the heavens? Of this I have no doubt.

Music transports worship to spiritual heights

Barbara Warden

I won't forget the Sunday John Gurley approached me and asked "you know how to wave your arms around, don't you?" Suddenly, it seemed, I was the substitute choirmaster at Trinity. Thanks so much to John for asking, and to Trinity, for making it permanent. What a blessing it is to be part of the music at Trinity!

Music has the ability to transport us, and directing our wonderful parish choir has provided me lots of exciting transportation. We tease each other at choir practice saying we're making a joyful noise, but this group spends hours



Barbara Warden, far right, has joined Trinity's staff as director of the choir. Here, choir members provide music for the annual Blessing of the Animals in October.

carefully preparing the anthems. The time flies by – because making music is fun! Anyone who has tried to sing through Hill Country allergies knows that there are small miracles when our voices cooperate, and the result is beautiful music from choir and accompanist. More is on the way.

A healthy church music program includes a dedicated, talented choir and accompanist – with which we are blessed. But it goes well beyond the parish choir. We're enjoying a variety of soloists and ensembles, both vocal and instrumental, blessing us with their offerings. The sharing of talent is a true and valuable gift, and many members of our congregation have stepped up to share their musical talents. This doesn't happen without some stress, effort, and time investment, so remember to thank them for sharing with us!

Music is a critical part of worship, bringing us to a spiritual place we may reach no other way. An old, familiar hymn may take us back to our childhood,

surrounded by loved ones long gone. Our hearts leap when we hear sublime harmonies beautifully delivered, and we can barely hold still when a catchy rhythm fills our ears. Music can refresh, sooth, excite, comfort, relax, inspire – and the list goes on. We appreciate music in solitude, or when shared with a crowd. It is powerful and mysterious, with the ability to move us to joy or tears, thoughtfulness or humor, and to emotions we can't even name. Music is one of the wonders God has given us to enjoy on this earth – with some assurance that we may continue singing with the heavenly hosts one day.

Not long ago, at the Blessing of the Animals, the choir and guitar ensemble offered up a lively version of "All God's Creatures Have a Place in the Choir."

All God's creatures—this means you, whether you are sitting in the congregation, playing an instrument, drumming, or singing—please join us in making a joyful noise!

Sabbatical is a time for much-needed renewal

Ed Manigold

Trinity and the Rev. David Sugeno are in the process of planning the rector's sabbatical, scheduled for late summer 2015. Ed Manigold serves on the sabbatical planning committee.

As children we are taught to take care of ourselves. We learn to do such things as dress ourselves, brush our own teeth, tie our shoes, ask for help when necessary, stop and rest when we are exhausted, and come inside when it's very cold or very hot. When we enter the world of work some of us follow the American business tradition: come to work early, work hard all day, and stay late six days a week. Sacrifice for the good of the company. Some of us were generously rewarded for embracing this work ethic even though it may have had a negative effect on our quality of life and health. Because of the demands of a job we missed many important family events and other things that give life special meaning. The work-hard-all-the-time environment can often break a body and a soul.

Episcopalians seem to understand the American work ethic phenomenon and the articulated and unarticulated expectations of a priest. As a result, a sabbatical is often included in the employment contract of a new priest to allow time renew the strength of faith and service.

A sabbatical is not a vacation. The difference between a vacation and a sabbatical is similar to the difference between the nature of industrial/commercial activity and the spiritual intangible goals of a priest's work.

You know the old "input-process-output model" that governs the world of industry and commerce. It assumes that a good bonus, stock options, sick leave, two weeks' vacation, a good retirement plan, and most weekends off is plenty good for most mortals. After all, we can do whatever we want when we retire. Competition among

businesses demands that every dollar spent must contribute to the bottom line as a return on investment for the stock holders or other long term advantage.

A priest's work, on the other hand, includes meeting God's expectations for service as an apostle and priest. The priest must also consider the expectations of the Diocese, the expectations of parish and family, and the priest's own expanding expectations for service as well as a private study, prayer and meditative life. It's a long-term investment. Knowledge of scripture, theology, and church administration are changing almost as rapidly as digital technology and cultural norms.

The duties of a parish priest include visiting the sick, representing the church in the community and strengthening a ministerial alliance, comforting the

bereaved, overseeing parish commissions, preparing inspirational sermons, selecting the music, overseeing the vestry and policymaking for the parish and the management of church funds,

making decisions regarding construction and upkeep of a facility, responding to unanticipated phone calls and unannounced visits. This sounds like a CEO and chairman of the Board.

The priest is expected to welcome all who show up for church and do things or cause things to happen that inspire us to develop new spiritual insights, to lift our spirits, to encourage parish members to follow Christ's example, and to characterize His teachings in our lives. The priest seeks to inspire and promote among parishioners a profound desire for humble service to others, to forgive, to be patient and just, and to generously give time and energy to God's work. While doing all this within the ever changing cultural norms the priest strives to be a living example of Christian charity and does His work authoritatively with scriptural wisdom, creativity, joy, selflessness, enthusiasm, and with the cell phone on. Oh, I forgot! The priest must take also care of himself, his family and ask if he needs anything. Isn't it about time to think about a sabbatical?

*rest
renewal
rebirth*

Come share the joy of The Nativity !

Christmas worship at Trinity Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve: Festival celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 5 & 8 p.m.

Christmas Day: Festival celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

*Nursery care will be provided
at both services on Christmas Eve.*



Highway 1431 East at Avenue D
830.693.2822 | trinitymarblefalls.org
Sunday Services: 8 a.m. & 10: 30 a.m.
The Episcopal Church welcomes you.



909 Avenue D, Marble Falls TX 78654-0633