

and the ordination of a gay bishop in 2003 marked significant changes in our worship over the past forty plus years. There was much grumbling and many left, yet the Episcopal Church remains, Trinity Episcopal remains, and together we do our best to continue to spread the message of God's love to a lost and broken world.

9. Community is central to personal growth.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

Psalms 133:1

Frank writes, "Healthy churches value community. They challenge every person to plug into a smaller community of believers. They don't see Sunday morning as the pinnacle of church growth. Communities are where transformation occurs. Small groups of men and women that meet consistently and talk openly. They are transparent and authentic. They express problems and pray for one another.

Healthy churches see individual and collective growth as impossible without Christ-centered, vibrant community."

Amen! Small groups come in many shapes and sizes at Trinity. Monday evening Home Fellowship at Fr. Tony's, and the Cursillo weekly reunion groups are great examples. AA and Al-Anon, the Grief Support group, Sister's Circle, Betty's Pizza Fellowship, Tuesday afternoon Bible Study, Men's Club, and Wednesday evening Praise and Healing are other examples of small groups getting together regularly, sharing and growing with one another. And yes, I am sure I left someone out. Please forgive me.

10. A deep longing for the poor and marginalized is present.

All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along. Galatians 2:10

"Healthy churches are sacrificial. They give money to the poor and marginalized. They give sacrificially of their time to those less fortunate. Healthy churches see worship and justice as two sides of the same coin." Frank nails it! Who are we if not for the other? What is our purpose except to love and serve the Lord.

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. [For] Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'(Matthew 25)

A healthy church is a relevant church, worshipping God, serving Christ, and connecting with the community. Lake Area Ministry, the Thrift Shop, Pastoral Care ministry, and Kairos are just a sample of the ways we reach out to others. A healthy church is a vibrant church, "loving God, loving each other, making music with our friends."

Warmly, Tony+

Colossians 3:23

Trinity's Take Home Paper

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Aug. 25, 2019

The Rev. Tony Powell, Rector

The vision of Trinity Church is to be relevant to the Lake Region Community serving and drawing others to the gospel of Jesus Christ as a growing Episcopal Church.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased that you have come to worship with us this Lord's Day morning, and it is our prayer that you will receive God's blessing throughout the service. Trinity is an active and caring Episcopal Church. If you are a baptized Christian, you are welcome to come to the altar rail to receive the Sacrament of the Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. God loves you. No Exceptions!

ECW DINNER MEETING

On Tuesday **Sept. 3** the ECW will roll back into full gear with a dinner meeting at **6:00pm**. This meeting is open to all women of the church and there promise to be a few fun surprises in store. If you've never been to a meeting before this is a perfect time to come (and you don't even have to cook dinner!) Hope to see you on the 3rd!

LAKE AREA MINISTRIES

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, LAM Sunday, when we are blessed to be able to bring food, paper items, pet food and toiletries to be blessed and given to Lake Area Ministries. With summer well upon us and children just getting back to school the need is great for additional supplies for their food pantry. Thank you for helping.

GOT SNEAKERS?

The Outreach team is starting a new partnership with a group called Got Sneakers? If you have old sneakers in any kind of condition we will be collecting them starting next week. We will be able to send them on to be reconditioned or repurposed into something else and at the same time they will return a small revenue to us which we will use to help with Trinity's Our Little Roses Sponsorship of Katerin. More info soon!

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY CHURCH

Sunday 8/25

Holy Eucharist

Service 10:00am

9:00 am Discussion of the Lessons

9:30 am JC and the Gospel

Refreshments Following the Service

Monday 8/26

Labor Day Holiday Office Closed

Tuesday 8/27

10:00am Sister’s Circle Wicker Room

Noon Betty’s and the Bible Lunch

5:30pm AA in PH

6:00pm ECW Dinner Meeting PH

7:00pm Al Anon in Wicker Room

Wednesday 8/28

12:00 AA in Wicker Room

6:00 Eucharist and Healing Service

Thursday 8/29

Thrift Shop 10am - 4pm open

7:00pm AA in Wicker Room

Friday 8/30

Thrift Shop

Saturday 8/31

9:00am AA in Wicker Room

9:00am—noon Thrift Shop

10:30am AA in Wicker Room

Sunday 9.1

Holy Eucharist

Service 10:00 First Sunday

Pot Luck Lunch

Trinity Episcopal Church

204 SR 26

Post Office Box 361

Melrose, Florida 32666

Phone: 352 475 2177

Father Tony’s Cell: 352 727 0354

Email: trinitymelrose@windstream.net

FUTURE EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 1** **First Sunday**
One Service 10:00am
- Sept. 2** **Labor Day Holiday**
Office Closed
- Sept. 3** **ECW Meeting 6:00pm**
Dinner Provided
- Sept. 9** **Home Study Starts**
At Fr.Tony’s 6:00pm
- Sept. 10** **Afternoon Study Begins**
PH in use PM
- Sept. 12** **Movie Night**
- Sept. 16** **Balance Class Starts**
- Sept. 19** **Grill and Chill**
- Sept. 21** **SongFarmers 7:00pm**
- Sept. 26** **Men’s Cursillo Weekend**
- Sept. 28** **Men’s Club**

OCTOBER

- Oct. 1** **ECW Meeting**



Altar Flowers Today

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God.

If you would like to donate flowers as a memorial, celebration or for a special event, please sign up on the flower chart in the parish hall and call the office.

Dear Trinity Family,

Last week, in Colossians, we began a discussion of 10 Signs of Healthy Churches, borrowing heavily from Frank Powell’s *Restoring culture through Christ*. Today we pick up with the next point in his article:

6. Relevance is a priority.

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. 1 Corinthians 9:23

Frank writes, “A healthy church is a growing church. A healthy church, therefore, values numeric and spiritual growth. And this means the church is willing to adapt and change to remain relevant. A church stuck in its ways and constantly yelling at the culture will never reach people for Jesus. Healthy churches know this. They do what they have to do to adapt. Reaching the lost is far more important than keeping traditions.”

A big part of our mission at Trinity is doing just that - staying relevant in our message and ministries, working together to spread the good news of God’s love in all we say and do.

7. Gluttonous Christians do not exist.

“He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant” Philippians 2:7

Frank is speaking of churches that exist just to feed themselves, churches that are more Country Club than ministry. There are still many family “chapels” in the Episcopal Church – parishes that exist for themselves and have no intention of growing.

Frank writes, “Walk into a healthy church and you will find servants. And this starts at the top. Serving is a way of life. Too many dead churches are the result of Christians who fattened themselves on sermons and classes.” Of course, every church has “sermons and classes.” The question is what we are doing with all that learning? How are we applying those lessons in our lives? How are we serving those beyond our doors? Thanksgiving in the Park, the Front Door Ministry, Pack-a-Sack, and the Good Samaritan Street Ministry are ways we reach out.

8. Leadership does not allow the loud voices of a few to derail the vision and mission.

“Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?’” John 6:61-62

Did you know that Jesus’ disciples grumbled?! And many even turned back and refused to follow him anymore. (John 6:60-68)

Thriving churches do not let one or two grumbling voices derail the church’s mission. Healthy churches remain focused. “They are determined. They set their minds on fulfilling the calling God has given them.”

The Episcopal Church has seen its share of controversies - the approval of women priests in 1976, the introduction of the “New” Prayer Book in 1979,