



The Trinity Bell



Volume 14, Issue 11

Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

December 2017

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.



A Word from Father Tony

November 1, 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Martin Luther's nailing of the Ninety-five Theses to the Castle Church door opened the floodgates of Reformation thought. Among

the many Reformation theologians, two that stand out are French theologian John Calvin, (1509-1554) and Dutch theologian Jacobus Arminius, (1560-1609). Their writings and followers profoundly shaped Christianity as we know it today.

Just to give this an English Reformation perspective, the first Book of Common Prayer was published in 1559. Jamestown, Virginia, was established in 1607 and the King James Bible was published in 1611. The Puritans landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. The 16th and 17th Centuries were exciting times. The Reformers set the stage for the Age of Enlightenment (also known as the Age of Reason), which began as early as 1650.

GotAnswers.Com describes Calvinism and Arminianism as "two systems of theology that attempt to explain the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility in the matter of salvation." God's sovereignty and man's responsibility...sounds simple enough!

At the Fall Clergy Conference, table discussion at dinner turned to the Five Points of Calvinism, known by its acronym, TULIP: **T**otal Depravity, **U**nconditional Election, **L**imited Atonement, **I**rresistible Grace, and **P**erseverance of the Saints.

Each of these points would take pages to explain, however, suffice it to say, Calvinists believe that with the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden and the birth of original sin, humankind, human nature, is totally depraved - absolutely corrupted by sin and totally unable to respond to God on our own.

Jacobus Arminius believed in a "prevenient" grace, a preceding grace, an enabling grace that in spite of our sinful nature, makes it possible for us to believe and respond to God's love. Yes, we are sinners, yes we are sinful, yet by the Holy Spirit we can make right choices, we can respond to God's incredible grace and love.

Confusing? Perhaps, however, there are some great quizzes online to help you figure out what you believe and shed light on the differences in the two theologies. Here are the questions asked by one: "Are You a Calvinist, Arminian, Or Neither?" found at <http://www.socialappbuilder.com/gfba2/a/9918/3/>

default.aspx

Do you believe man is capable of "choosing" to repent and believe on Christ?

Do you believe repentance and faith are "conditions" required for salvation?

Do you believe Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world (every human being who ever has been, is, and will be)?

Do you believe that when God convicts someone to repent and be saved, they can resist that?

Do you believe that once an individual is truly converted that they can ever become "unsaved" again?

Does God send certain individuals to hell or do they send themselves?

Are some babies going to heaven and some going to hell based upon God's election?

Will a person who is saved without a doubt show it by their changed life?

I chose to take this test on my own. [Yes, this question has a purpose in determining your bent.]

The answers provided are not simply "Yes" or "No." There are multiple choices to choose from that help you identify your beliefs, and the result may surprise you.

How does it affect us today? I believe it is important for each of us to know our personal theology concerning how people come to know the Lord. It helps each of us in telling your own story, our witness to God's power in our lives, and presenting the hope of the Gospel to others.

It also shows us how the Reformation has touched our lives, how deeply embedded we find the teachings of the great theologians. We also gain a new appreciation for the 1st Century theologians: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul, who passed on the teachings and words of Christ and the teachings and understanding of the early church. The Reformers **remind us that God's power and grace** are revealed anew as we struggle to understand God's revelation in the midst of our own generation.

The Reformers remind us that God is working in every generation, equipping the saints with power and grace and new understanding to spread the Good News of His mighty love and passion for each of us.

Warmly, Tony+

FIRST SUNDAY

Sunday, Dec. 3, is the First Sunday 10:00am

**Head of the Church
Jesus Christ**

**The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard
Bishop of Florida**

Members of the Vestry

**Senior Warden,
Wells Hood 2020
Brian McCrae, Jr. Warden 2019
Jeanne Homany 2018
Laurie Alsobrook 2018
Joyce Chesnut 2019
John Katterhenry 2020
Liz Outten 2020
Diane Sargent, Clerk**

Clergy

Rev. Tony Powell, Rector

Music

**Margaret Rice, Choir Director
Figg Poncher, Organist**

Office

**Figg Poncher,
Financial Administrator
Linda Wilcox,
Parish Administrator
and Editor of the "Trinity Bell"**

Service Times

8:30 am and 11:00 am Sunday

**Trinity Episcopal Church
204 SR 26**

**Post Office Box 361
Melrose, Florida 32666**

**Office Hours: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Monday thru Thursday**

**Office Phone: 352 475-2177
Fax: 352 475-6181**

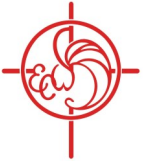
Email:

**trinitymelrose@windstream.net
Website: trinitymelrosefl.org**

**DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY BELL IS
DECEMBER 15th**

NEWS FROM THE ECW

The January ECW meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 6:00pm in the parish hall. Dinner will be provided and all women of the church are welcome.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 6	Robert Rhodes
Dec. 9	Suki Hoffman
Dec. 10	Jim White
Dec. 14	Michael Douglas
Dec. 15	Donna Eichelsderfer, Holly Hill Morrow
Dec. 24	Jim Swarr, Sharon Jax
Dec. 25	Lilly Paul
Dec. 27	Kristi Gregory
Dec. 30	Laurie Alsobrook, Mimi Shaughnessy



O God, our times are in your hand; look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Dec. 9	Vi and Rodney Paul
Dec. 18	Lavonne and Jeff Mackey
Dec. 22	Donna and Jim Eichelsderfer



Eat Like You're Sick to Stay Well!

(These wonderful health related articles are collected by our own Jeanne Homany for us.)

Daniel Thomas - chef - says if everyone ate like they have diabetes, more people may stay "borderline" diabetic. Such great advice! Those of us in the health profession of diabetes know that "borderline" has been replaced by the word "pre-diabetes", because if the person given this diagnosis doesn't get religion about exercise and vegetables and weight loss, they will get diabetes! Here are some tips Mr Thomas recommends - (1) Don't eat after 7 pm. (2) Keep nuts in your glove compartment. I personally love this one! (3) Avoid the noodles in chicken soup. Use quinoa or barley instead. (4) Don't eat the bottom bun of your burger. Add all available vegetables. (5) Choose mashed avocado over mayonaise for healthy fat, fiber and vitamins.



Trinity Bell Report for the month of October & YTD, 2017

	Oct Actual	Oct Budget	Over/Under	Y-T-D Act	Y-T-D Bud	Over/Under
Total Revenue \$	13,345	\$ 13,607	(\$262)	\$148,924	\$145,289	\$3,635
Total Expense	14,157	17,917	3,760	156,954	172,720	15,766
Surplus / (Deficit)	(812)	(4,310)	3,498	(8,029)	(27,431)	19,402

Collections	October <u>Actual</u>	October <u>Budget</u>	Over/Under <u>Budget</u>	Jan-Oct <u>YTD Actual</u>	Jan-Oct <u>YTD Budget</u>	Over/ Under <u>Budget</u>
Pledged Offer- ings	\$11,153	11,502	(\$349)	121,952	122,689	(737)
Non-Pledged Offerings	1,225	830	395	13,230	8,300	4,930
Other Offerings	312	575	(263)	3,833	6,000	(2,167)
Priest Fund	325	-	325	2,810	-	2,810
Net Income	\$13,015	\$12,907	\$108	\$141,825	\$136,989	\$4,836

**Donations can only be credited for 2017
if they are received in 2017,**

THANKSGIVING IN THE PARISH HALL!

This year, for the first time in ten years, we were blessed with lots of rain on Thanksgiving Day. But, it didn't stop the helping hands, the donations of food, or about 200 people from coming to share a Thanksgiving feast! We are so fortunate to have our parish hall so that we were able to set up the tables and make places for the "Green Station", the Kids Crafts, a Dessert table, Drinks, the Free Table where people could pick up a coat or jacket or room for our musicians. It was a testament to the people of Trinity, and to our guest helpers, that everyone just pitched in and re-arranged and made-do with the new situation. By serving time at 11:00 everything was set and ready to go. We opened with a sweet prayer circle and then with beautiful smiles, the food was served. Children were tickled to go to the craft table and decorate cookies, the music was wonderful, and the free coats and jackets were appreciated by many.

As usual, after the kitchen was clean and things put away, we packed up the remaining food and took it to St. Francis House in Gainesville. Usually there are lots of people standing around outside of St. Francis, but this Thanksgiving there was no one. When I asked about it, they said they had let everyone in because of the rain and they were more appreciative than ever for the gift of food. God always knows just the right thing to guide us to! Thank you to everyone who helped, donated and prayed. The day was a great success because of your caring hearts. Thank you!

Trinity Episcopal Church
204 SR 26
Post Office Box 361
Melrose, Florida 32666

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Return Service Requested



DECEMBER 2017

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- Dec. 2 ECW Luncheon
- Dec. 3 First Sunday**
First Sunday of Advent
Taize Service 4:00 in the church
- Dec. 8 PH in use pm
- Dec. 9 Nativity Walk and Merry Melrose
- Dec. 12 PH in use
- Dec. 24 Sunday Service 10:00am**
Christmas Eve Services
5:30pm Family Service
10:00pm Choral Service
- Dec. 31 One Service at 10:00am**

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday : 8:30 am and 11:00am Holy Eucharist
In the Church

9:45am Adult Christian Formation

1st Sunday of the Month

One Service only at 10:00am

In the Parish Hall

Potluck Lunch Following

Mon. & Wed. 9:00 Morning Prayer

Tuesdays: Noon Lectionary Study at Betty's Pizza

Bible Study at 1:30 - Wicker Room

Wednesday: 6:00pm Eucharist

Thrift Shop

Open 10am to 4pm Thursday

2pm—5pm Friday

9am—Noon Saturday

Access Program

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am—2pm