



# Trinity Tidings

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May 2025

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## THE VESTRY

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### Class of 2026

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### Class of 2027

**Karen Berry**  
**Carol Davis**  
**Julie Bridgforth Simpson**

**Jamie Green**  
Clerk of the Vestry

## God works for good in all things

Excerpts from exposition of Julian of Norwich (c.1373), saint, whose day of remembrance is in May:

It appears that Julian's concept of sin is that it is grotesque and perversion. However, within the Providence of God in the whole of Creation, sin is fitting as it serves and is for the sake of the higher good. If this were not so, God could not allow it as His character is perfectly just and loving. So, while it is vile and repugnant, sin is simultaneously grotesque and sweet, the former in regard to itself, the latter in that God uses it to serve some good that will be by it. The fall of man, while tragic, issues through God's love to the redemption He affords in Christ. Beyond our prospect, all will finally be ingredients in the final Glory of God. Therefore, Saint Julian's famous. **All shall be well**, although not all will be privately perfect experienced in isolation. Sin will indeed remain sin, but it will be subsumed into the overwhelmingly greater story of God's abiding love and recreation.

Of course, it is impossible for us to see here and now how permitted evils will be used to implement higher goods. We do not even know what such higher goods may be in specific. Nonetheless, this is what we must expect as characters in the middle of a story written by Providence; we are not the authors, much less the critics (ask Job). Saint Augustine reflects thus:

The sinful will, though it violate the order of nature, does not [nor cannot] escape the laws of God, who justly orders all things for good. For as the beauty of a picture is increased by well-managed shadows, so, to the eye that has the skill to discern it, the universe is beautified even by sinners, though consider by themselves, their deformity is a sad blemish. Ultimately, evil is reprehensible and damnable, but it is not meaningless nor outside God's providential plan. Julian of Norwich tells us that all shall be well precisely because God, the grand storyteller, has written, is now writing, a story in which the reality of our virtue and even the reality of our sin shall forever reflect nothing but the Glory of God.

Adapted from Augustine, Saint Thomas, and Julian

## Happening This Month

### Sunday Worship

Holy Communion at **10:30 a.m.**

### Wednesday Service and Lunch

**May 7 and 21** — The service of Holy Communion begins at **12:05 p.m.** in the Chapel. A potluck lunch will follow. You are invited to bring a dish to share, as you are able. All are welcome.

### Vestry Meeting

The Vestry meeting is set for **Sunday, May 18** in the conference room, immediately after the service.

### ECW Meeting

The Episcopal Church Women will hold a special called meeting **Sunday, May 4** after the service to plan upcoming events and projects. The meeting was rescheduled from the usual second Sunday due to conflicts.

### Memorial Day

The parish office will be closed **Monday, May 26**, in observance of Memorial Day.

## News and Notices

**Daughters of the King Installation** — On **May 18**, six women will be formally installed as new members of the Trinity Chapter of the Daughters of the King. Each new member has completed 12 hours of training and discernment, committing herself to a lifelong journey of prayer, service, and personal evangelism. The Daughters are devoted to deepening the spiritual life of their parish and advancing Christ's Kingdom. We joyfully welcome our new Daughters: Jamie Green, Jessi Green, Reagan Haynes, Christine McKissack, Charlotte Wilson, and Brandy Yates. The mission of the Daughters of the King is to extend Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. If you are in need of prayer or would like to request prayers for others, please reach out to Donna Coker, chapter president. All prayer requests are held in strictest confidence.

**A note from JLR+:** God's first and greatest gift to Adam was Eve. **May 11** we will remember with gratitude the mothers of our families who have been such wonderful servants, models, and motivators in our families and nation. On a parochial level, the humble service of The Lord's Table has been the unique province of our ladies in the Altar Guild, and we will express our gratitude to them on **May 18**, as well.

## May Ministries

	4	11	18	25
1st Reading	Karen Berry	Charlotte Wilson	Lucy McNew	Donna Coker
2nd Reading/	Julie Simpson	Phil McBee	Charlie McNew	Phil McBee
Crucifer	Julie Simpson	Phil McBee	Charlie McNew	Phil McBee
Usher	Jay Cromwell	Smokey Williams	Martin Johnson	Doug Dorris
Security	Jim Danaher	John Owen	Mike Grisham	Larry Wasson
Altar Guild	Donna Coker	Carol Davis/ Sammye	Alyce Carraway	Merry Tom Dorris
Lock-Up	Jay Cromwell	Jack Davis	Jeff Carraway	Doug Dorris

# Begotten, not made?

The doctrine of the Son's begottenness from the Father is called *eternal generation*. It is a classic and crucial Trinitarian doctrine, but it also a mystery beyond human description. Eternal generation is like human generation in that one essence begets the same essence, but it is unlike human generation in that it does not involve physical reproduction. Eternal generation is hyperphysical (it is outside the physical or material realm), infinite (it does not take place in time), and ineffable (it cannot be fully comprehended). By eternal generation we do not mean that the Father created the Son's essence, but rather that the Father *communicates* the essence he shares with the Son.

The language of "only begotten" helps explain how all these truths can stand together. The early church thought long and hard about how to explain that the Godhead can consist of multiple persons without there being multiple essences. The Son is equal with the Father because he was eternally begotten of the Father. The Son is also distinct from the Father because he was eternally begotten from the Father. When Jesus says he is in the Father and the Father is in him, he is speaking to the theological reality that the Nicene Creed means to defend. <sup>John 14:11</sup> We know that a son is from the "stuff" of his father, and yet a son is not the same as his father, and the father does not come from his son. What we understand intuitively in an earthly sense, the Nicene Creed is trying to explain and safeguard in an eternal and theological sense.

## Did you know?

Christians are being massacred. Last year alone, 355 Christians were murdered in the Congo (DRC). Two Christian brothers, Amoon and Qaisar, were falsely accused of blasphemy in Pakistan and sentenced to death. Despite no evidence, their conviction was upheld. In Azerbaijan proof has come to light of significant, irrefutable evidence of long-term torture and cruel and unusual punishment of Christians supported by the highest levels of the Azeri government.

The **persecution of Christians** worldwide has only gotten worse every year, with militant Islam, oppressive regimes, and criminal gangs and extremists ramping up attacks. The need for prayer and support is great. Please ask how the Lord would have you serve your brothers and sisters in Christ, "neighbors" far away.

-Fr. Reeves

### Newsletter Reminder

If you would like to have an announcement or article published in the newsletter, please email to [office@trinitychurchpb.org](mailto:office@trinitychurchpb.org). Hand-written or printed articles may be delivered to the office or mailed to P.O. Box 8069, Pine Bluff, AR 71611. The deadline to submit articles for the June-July *Tidings* is **May 20**. Articles may be edited for length and content.

## Celebrations

### **Birthdays**

5/03 Ann White  
5/14 Peggy McLemore  
5/16 Sammye Owen  
Pierce Latch  
5/17 Michelle Johnson  
5/22 Tonja McBryde  
5/26 George Makris, Jr.  
Trey Danaher  
5/29 Nathan Davis

### **Anniversaries**

5/04 Tonja and Sam  
McBryde  
5/15 Gay and Bubba  
Davis  
5/25 Janice and Steve  
Yeung

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**Address Service Requested**

## Our Easter Endgame

We invest our entire life on the reliability  
that God will be good to His Word  
and that the Lord Jesus Christ  
will transform us and our lowly bodies  
to be like Him in His Glorious Resurrected  
Body, sharing the reward of the saints  
in ecstasy beyond belief forever.

- source, unknown