

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Amarillo, TX.

## The Sweet Evolution of Trunk or Treat Over the Years



How sweet it is to watch sweet little costumed children and their very patient parents parade by as they travel trunk to trunk gathering candy and treats. How sweet it is to literally have 6 buns and 2 hotdogs left at the end of the evening. (No really you have no idea how sweet that is.... Especially when you are new to the job and general consensus was that 1200 hotdogs would be plenty!) It turns out that 1200 hotdogs are no longer plenty... it is just barely enough. Note to self: Next year don't cut it quite so close when deciding how much food to buy!



How sweet it also is to look back at the transformation Trunk or Treat has made over the past 10 years. 10 Years? It doesn't seem possible. If ever we start doubting just how many times we have successfully pulled off Trunk or Treat, we just have to ask how old this little cutie is. She was just a tiny baby when St. Andrews hosted its first Trunk or Treat. Just like Perry Steph has grown and changed over the years, Trunk or Treat looks much different these days as well. Back then it was mainly in the Parish Hall and outside on the lawn and included carnival-type games. They cooked 50 hotdogs and 50 burgers and was an event for just members of the Parish. It steadily grew and was moved out of the Parish Hall and into the parking lot. Parishioners of all ages provided the trunks and passed out candy mainly still to other members of St. Andrews and their children and grandchildren.

Over the years additions and changes were made. Professional face painters were hired, extra liability insurance was purchased for bounce house rentals, and one year Marcy McKay managed to secure permits to close Bryan street! It soon became an event that others in the community started joining in on. The addition of a "candy bank" was created the year after attendance skyrocketed to 400. Now, each year, starting in October members of St. Andrews can donate candy to trunk or treat. Simply donating candy to the cause or just showing up with a decorated trunk is now an option. These days, most trunks rely on the candy bank in some form. Yet, there are still a few brave (and generous) souls who provided candy to 1,200 kids entirely with candy they purchased themselves! It has



*Trick or Treaters as far as the eyes can see!*

become a major group effort with members of St. Andrews participating in the ways that work best for them. However, the most important part in the evolution of Trunk or Treat came when it shifted from a parish event to outreach. Mother Jo used to tell the story well and often. One year, a young mother timidly approached the hot dog table and Mother Jo assured her they were free. The relieved mother is overcome with emotion as this would be the only meal she and her children would have all weekend. I've heard mother Jo recount this story several times. I remember the story being about a young mother. My husband is certain it was actually a father that was so appreciative of the free hot dogs. Either way lives were impacted that year, and Trunk or Treat took a new direction. What stands out to me in this story isn't the gender of the parent but in how it affected Mother Jo. Each time she retells this story she is equally as moved as the first time she told it.



*Our own Sheri Langford in her signature turquoise*

As the numbers have grown and the lines get longer, I always think how remarkable it is that we are able to pull off a Trunk or Treat of this magnitude. I'm not sure most of us even realize that the main purpose of Trunk or Treat is now community outreach and feeding so many families who would otherwise go hungry. I always thought passing out candy to eager



*Our Parish is blessed by serving our community!*

trick or treaters, or taking my own eager candy collectors around to trunks on the Sunday before Halloween was the main event. Feeding those in need was just one of the many changes and additions we made over the years. However, it wasn't until this year, when my own children decided passing out candy was more fun than



*Hotdogs, hotdogs, hotdogs!!*



*We made the news!*

going trunk to trunk, that I was able to appreciate the bigger picture of Trunk or Treat. Now, one might think that in my new role as Christian Formation Coordinator, there wouldn't be a whole lot of time to stand around and observe. Perhaps it was because I was running around doing so much that I got to experience the various aspects of what makes Trunk or Treat special. Lines stretched all the way back to

the Nave, and not once did I hear complaining. An amazingly dressed Beauty and the Beast took up occupancy in an empty parking spot and posed for pictures with trick or treaters. Did I mention they do not even go to our church? They picked our event to attend because they heard about how amazing it was. I watched Mustard Seed and Rite 13 kiddos team-up alongside vestry members and older members of the church to pass out hotdogs. I read Facebook posts from parents about how special it is to do Trunk or Treat with their teens and reminisce about when they were babies. Somewhere in that exhausting few hours I found myself choked up and getting emotional.

I'm not going to lie. There have been years (with very young children) that Trunk or Treat has been overwhelming for me. Times, when waiting in those long and seemingly unmoving lines, that I wished it were a smaller Parish event once again. There are probably many of you that feel the same way. I get it. I'm not that far removed from life with babies and toddlers, so I completely understand that for many of you it is still a somewhat hectic event that you really enjoy but mainly just try to survive! Sometimes it is hard to see the forest for the trees... and by trees, I mean making sure the baby doesn't choke on a dum-dum and the toddler doesn't ruin his costume before Halloween. I'm willing to bet

that there are other older members of the Parish that don't realize this event isn't just for those with kids. It is a team effort and members of all ages can find a way to participate. It truly is one of the most worthwhile and meaningful things we do as a Parish to ALL involved, especially ourselves.

It isn't that I ever doubted Mother Jo when she spoke of how beautiful Trunk or Treat is. I always knew we were doing a good and worthwhile event. However, this year I could *feel* it. This year I was moved by it. Standing back and observing I was able to take in the entire scope of just how amazing our Church is. When next year rolls around I hope you remember my words just as I remember Mother Jo's.

**Trunk or Treat is truly magical.**

~Lacey Turman



*They just kept coming! It was incredible!*



*Nate, Brent, and Dakota cooking hotdogs*



*So many Trick or Treaters!*



*Beauty & The Beast posing for pictures.*