

April 2008

TRINITY

High Notes

News for and about members of Trinity Episcopal Church

In this issue

- 1 *Fr. Hector talks about courage and daffodils*
- 2 *What's going on in April • Birthdays and anniversaries • Guild news • Vestry news*
- 3 *The Vestry comments on Part 2 of our Vision/Mission statement*
- 4 *Who, what, when, where, and sometimes, why • The ur-Bookworm*
- 5 *Vestry members attend Diocesan training program*

Celebrate Eastertide . . . and daffodils

Easter is one day, but it is also a fifty-day season, just as Christmas is one day, but also a twelve-day season. There is every reason to savor each of these fifty days. Let me suggest that the acumen developed in the forty days of Lent now finds it full expression in the joy of the risen Christ for the great fifty days.

As you read this we have just passed the Second Sunday of Easter (five more to come) where we heard how poor Thomas was caught unawares by the news of the Resurrection. Human nature being what it is, that moment left him forever labeled "doubting," when in fact he should be remembered for his statement "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

Of course, you are reading this precisely because of the Resurrection, and because we share this faith in the risen Christ. Equally true is that John the Evangelist draws us into the narrative of the gospel through this account. The disciples follow Jesus, but never seem quite able to grasp the significance of his ministry, which, in turn, calls for an explanation, for the disciples and for us. To his credit, as we heard on Lent V, Thomas shows his courage when Jesus announces that he is going to

Jerusalem, and Thomas declares, "Let us also go," urging his friends, and also recognizing the danger posed by the Temple authorities, "that we may die with him." (John 11:16)

In the typical style of the fourth gospel, this willingness (1) draws us to the narrative, (2) offers an immediate commentary by reminding us of who will die, and (3) speaks directly to us, calling us to conversion and a deepening of faith.

Consider this poem by Elizabeth Rooney, "Challenge":

*Trust Him
As if you were a daffodil
Thrusting your vulnerable
green
Into the cold March air.
He has called you
To love and praise Him here
In this strange modern scene.
He knows more than you know
About the pain
Of being human
And the cost of sin.
He knows the wind is chill,
The snow half melted
And the ground still bare.
And yet, He calls like spring,
"Come, follow me!"
Be like daffodils
And dare!*

—Fr. Hector

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April Goings-on

Saturday, April 19 -- Diocesan Meeting

The spring meeting of the women of the diocese, "A Glimpse of Women of Vision," will be held at St. Dunstan's church, 6205 University Ave., Madison. Coming soon—more information.

Wednesday, April 30 -- Stress Clinic

7:00 p.m.— Claire Holland will conduct a stress-reduction workshop in the undercroft. Entitled "Living a Balanced Life: Faith-based Stress Management," the free two-hour workshop draws on Claire's years as a licensed therapist. The program is non-denominational and open to anyone interested in spirituality and its connection to mental health—so please spread the word! Please call Claire at 987-3518 for reservations.
9:00 p.m.

Coming soon . . .

May 15–24

All hands on deck—it's time to rummage! For details of our annual Spring rummage sale, see next month's *High Notes*. Meantime, start cleaning out those closets!

Sunday, June 8 -- Visit from the Bishop

4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by reception in the undercroft. (Morning Prayer will be said at 9:00 a.m.)

News from the Guild

The March meeting of the Trinity Guild was held at the rectory on March 15. **Barbara Hector** gave a short program on the poetry of Elizabeth Rooney, a former parishioner. The upcoming rummage sale was discussed, with the hanging date set for May 13 at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are

needed—please call **Marj Roberts** at 935-5703.

Fr. Hector shared a newsletter about life in Haiti, and the Guild subsequently voted to send \$100 for Haitian relief through the diocese

The next Guild meeting will be at the church after packing up the rummage sale on Saturday, May 24.

April Celebrations!

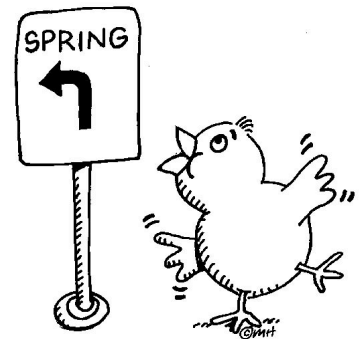
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Birthdays

- 7 Bill Zimmerman
- 8 Grant Oberhauser
- 18 Mary Fenley
- 20 Fr. Ray Sims
- 21 Jan Johnson
- 27 Dr. Tom Faull

Anniversaries

- 5 Kate and Bill Martin



News from the Vestry

At its March 17 meeting, the Vestry discussed:

- Needed repairs at the rectory,
- Needed repairs and up-dates at the church,
- Upcoming parish events, including a proposed Fall LobsterFest,
- Need for investment recommendations from the Finance Committee,
- Clarification of Vestry members' and Wardens' terms.

Minutes of Vestry meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the undercroft (after they have been approved at the following month's meeting).

What's the role of music in the life of Trinity?

Our Vestry members share their thoughts.

At its September meeting, and after many months of diligent thought and effort, the Vestry unanimously voted to adopt a new Vision and Mission statement. Revised and updated as necessary, this statement helps us measure progress and focus on goals. The second Core Component of the statement is at right; Vestry comments on it follow, and your comments are welcome—please send them to Susanne Southwood at deltadirect@earthlink.net.

• **Fred Bowden:** I propose an hour every Tuesday night starting at 7:00 p.m.; make it a permanent day and time for vocal exercises, the next week's hymns, and liturgical music. It will provide a forum for a core of people with a common interest—and let the goals come as they may. We will meet, sing music, and pray and talk. In taking the time we create the habit and the common interest will flourish.

• **Candee Ferguson:** I have always enjoyed the fact that we as a congregation have made music and singing such an important part of our worship service. And even though I cannot read music and there are several hymns I find difficult to sing, I long ago discovered that if I just follow along and reflect on the words (as Father Hector recently suggested), it can still be a very

meaningful experience.

• **Fr. Hector:** Some thoughts: First is that hymns (the word comes directly from the Latin) are poetry. As such, they have merit even if someone doesn't like to sing. Second, most

**Vision-Mission Statement
Core Component No. 2**

We will sing and listen to sacred music. (Psalm 81:1-3)

a. Proposed Goal—Expand opportunities for people who wish to participate in/listen to sacred music.

b. Current and Possible Initiatives

i. Choir

ii. Chant choir

iii. Congregational hymn practice

iv. Host guest recitals

hymns were written to be sung while doing some manual task (kneading bread, chopping wood, walking). For many hundreds of years, we affirmed our faith through the day, not just one hour on Sunday.

• **Jan Johnson:** We have three wonderful musical assets: superb acoustics in an intimate space, a wonderful organ, and an exceptionally talented and creative musician on the bench. Let us first give thanks for these. Music can also be an important part of our outreach. Guest musicians performing

at Sunday services or performing at evening or matinee events could bring our musical assets to the community.

• **Kate Martin:** The scriptural base for our second core component is Psalm 81:1-3: *Sing with joy to God our strength and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob. Raise a song and sound the timbrel, the merry harp, and the lyre. Blow the ram's-horn at the new moon, and at the full moon, the day of our feast.* And to quote Brother Lawrence, "the presence of God is the concentration of the soul's attention on God" via music.

• **Mark Prouty:** For me, music is one of the core components of worship: It is living evidence of the Creator. Our participation, even in small ways, is an expression in a universal language of our praise, prayer, and love of God. We are blessed with an enthusiasm for song and a beautiful place for it. It is one of our strengths and traditions that merits conscientious nurturing.

• **Susanne Southwood:** I am reminded of St. Augustine's words: He who sings, prays twice. We have a fine musician (**Dorothy Prouty**), good singing voices, and excellent acoustics. Our challenge is to do more (I'd love for us to

Con't on pg 6

■ How's our Trinity interview project going? According to **Claire Holland** and **Susanne Southwood**, this series of interviews with active and inactive Trinity members is well on its way. The interviews—and their subsequent analysis by Melody Douglas-Tate, retired Chief Knowledge Officer for Leo Burnett Worldwide—will help us understand what we're doing right and what could be improved upon. So far, Claire and Susanne have completed interviews with seven active and two inactive members.

"It's a very intense process, both emotionally and in terms of time," Susanne says. "Claire and I jointly conduct each interview, which takes about an hour to complete. It takes at least another hour to compile and type the notes so they're ready for review and analysis."

Because this is such a big undertaking, it won't be possible to talk to everyone listed in the parish directory. However, anyone who particularly wants to participate should

feel free to call Claire (987-3518) or Susanne (987-2427).

No names appear on the interview form. Instead, respondents are identified only by a number and a letter indicating active or inactive status. Both Susanne and Claire say they are most appreciative of the time people are willing to devote to the interviews. "This project has major long-term implications for Trinity," Susanne said. "The more people who help us get the job done, the better the final report will be."

■ Thanks to the good offices of **Catherine Whitford** and **Susanne Southwood**, our 2008 Parish Directories have been printed. Susanne compiled and created the directory, which was then printed by Deb Pickett of Southwest Graphics in Darlington, who gave us the "Catherine Whitford price"—a more-than-50% discount. Thank you!

■ Anyone who dropped in on **Le Hector** in the last month or so probably found her curled up, reading a book. "I'm keeping my word to read the books from my own library," Le tells us. "Two books (*The Greek Treasure* and *The Gold of Troy*) about

What's the Bookworm reading these days?

The *ur*-Bookworm is back on the job this month, re-reading an old favorite, *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, a Hugo-award-winning book published in 1960 and

written by Walter M. Miller, Jr.

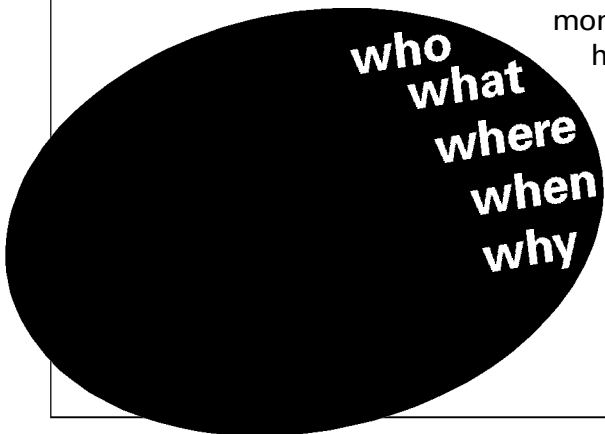


The notes on the dust jacket read, "By the time of the 32nd

century, the atomic Flame Deluge was over. The earth was dead. All knowledge was gone. In a hellish, barren desert, a humble monk unearths a fragile link to 20th-century civilization. A handwritten document from the Blessed Saint Leibowitz that reads: 'pound pastrami, can kraut, six bagels—bring home for Emma.'"

Officially, the book is classified as science fiction, but don't let that put you off. It is deeply moving, disturbing, profoundly thought provoking—a wonderfully, subtly, funny chronicle that explores what it is to be a Christian in a post-Apocalyptic age.

Divided into three parts—*Fiat Homo*, *Fiat Lux*, and *Fiat Voluntas Tua*—it has been called "a cry for sanity in our silent night of madness." *A Canticle for Leibowitz* is a cautionary tale, a great read, a story for our times. If the Bookworm ever had to reduce her library to ten books, this classic would be one of them. ❖



Con't on pg. 6

Vestry members travel to Sun Prairie for Diocesan training

by Candee Ferguson

Accompanied by Father Hector, four Vestry members attended the Diocesan Vestry Training Day held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie on Saturday, February 16. Senior Warden **Joan Faull**, **Jan Johnson**, Secretary **Mark Prouty**, and I all enjoyed the daylong program, which featured keynote speaker Terry Parsons.

Though her official and somewhat lengthy title is Staff Officer for Stewardship in the Congregational Development Unit of the Episcopal Church, Terry joked that she prefers "Helpful Princess." She shared her favorite story from the Bible, the parable of the loaves and fishes, which she feels offers valuable guidance to church leaders. She said Vestry members should concentrate more on what gifts and resources (the bread in the story) they do have, rather than on what is scarce or lacking.

Terry then outlined her list of seven secrets/reminders for Vestry members:

1. *Pray*—Invite Jesus to the table.
2. *Engage the Gospel*—Endeavor to discern what God is calling us to do.
3. *Rebuke scarcity*—We can't afford to waste our energy on fruitless worry over what we don't have.
4. *Claim abundance*—Focus on the gifts and resources we do possess and trust to God to

make up the shortfall. She added that this is "not for the fainthearted as it requires a leap of faith."

5. *Give thanks*—all the time, every chance we get. She noted that the Prayers of the People should have an equal number of petitions and thanksgivings. "I have yet to hear a petition that is not a thanksgiving in the making," Terry observed.



6. *Don't become fussbudgets*—It's more important to model and nurture holy habits of tithing and Sabbath than to fuss over the budget.

7. *Never, ever forget that you can't sell soap if you don't take baths*—Don't tell someone to do something that you would not be willing to do yourself.

The training day offered a total of six "breakout sessions," three in the morning and three in the afternoon, with attendees choosing one session from each time slot. The morning sessions were basic accounting and procedures, canons for parishes, and boundaries. I attended the latter, which was presented by Fr. Thomas Papazoglakis of St. Bartholomew's in Milwaukee.

For the afternoon breakout

sessions, we chose from the following topics: parochial report, vestry expectations, and communication, which was the one I selected. Fr. Thomas Barnett of St. Matthias in Waukesha was the presenter.

Both of the breakout sessions I attended were wonderful and the time flew by so quickly that I found myself disappointed when they ended. They definitely left me wanting more. And speaking of wanting more, the lunch provided by the industrious volunteers from Camp Webb's organization, Women's Mini Week, was really a treat, featuring several different kinds of lasagna along with stuffed mushrooms and every type of cheesecake you can think of for dessert.

In keeping with her national diocesan mission, Terry Parsons spoke about stewardship during her closing remarks at the end of the day. Here are a few highlights from that speech:

◆ "Stewardship—we've ruined that word. So call it what it is—financial commitment. As Vestry members, we are stewards of our congregation's time and resources. But even more importantly, we are stewards of the Gospel.

◆ "He who dies with the most toys is still dead. Ask yourself, what is the role of money in my life? Net worth does not equal self-worth.

◆ "God is going to hold me accountable for what I do have. He expects a return on his investment!

◆ "Recruit as Jesus did: by name and one by one."

