

December 2008

TRINITY

High Notes

News for and about members of Trinity Episcopal Church

In this issue

- 1 *Fr. Hector asks if we are ready to begin the new church year*
- 2 *December goings-on • Birthdays and anniversaries • Christmastide at Trinity*
- 3 *October Vestry meeting minutes • Parish survey: an update*
- 4 *Who, what, where, when, and why*
- 5 *Gospel music rocks Trinity*
- 6 *"Tuesdays at Trinity" kicks off with Fr. Hector spilling the beans • God has no one except you*
- 7 *How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb? It depends.*
- 8 *A very blessed Christmas to you and yours*

The Rev. Dr. J. Robert Hector,
Priest-in-Charge
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Are you ready?

Advent tells us that it is time to begin a new church year. And, as we begin, Advent holds two themes. The word, Advent, is Latin for "coming," which can mean that "it's on the way," or that "it's time to get ready."

The first "coming" is for us to prepare for the celebration of the historic birth of Jesus, the "coming" of God's love into the world, and into our hearts. The second "coming" is a call to prepare for Christ's "coming" in the fullness of time. Some call this the "last days," stressing the role of judgment, the separation of good from evil. I like to point out that whatever we do, it is just a beginning.

Secondly, it is God who is coming to judge, because many in this world are quick to judge, and it's not their job. And as always, the primary lesson is, "are you paying attention?" My joy is that Advent comes each year, every year, and I get to grow in my awareness.

Are you ready? Advent's first lesson is the central mystery of Christianity. The message begins with the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, when Mary makes our salvation possible by saying "Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) She agrees to bear the divine child, and nine months later we have the birth of Jesus. The lessons in this are endless. Primarily, Jesus is fully

human, which is the central statement of each creed. We, who are so quick to find fault, need this time of Advent to consider carefully God's plan, sharing fully in our humanity. And those who wish that God would hurry to get things done, must consider Mary, "great with child." (Luke 2:5, KJV). As with all of human development, there is no rushing a baby. God calls us to find and live the fullness of our humanity.

Are you ready? Some eagerly seek Christ's return, and are quick to point out various "signs" that the time is coming. Easily, our current economic situation could be one such sign, even if it is not as exciting as "wars and rumors of wars." (Mark 13:7)

I love the verse, "Pray that it may not happen in winter," (Mark 13:18) since Advent arrives at precisely that time of year. What does this verse mean to me? When we fear for food, shelter, and warmth, do we seek God first?

Advent tells us that God's love is not diminished by time, or temperature, or the price of gas, or the stock market. Further, every Christian seeks God's presence when we pray "Thy Kingdom come."

Such is the joy and strength of our faith.

—Yours in Christ,
Fr. Hector+

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2008 (Approved November 17, 2008)

In attendance: Fr. Bob Hector; Joan Faull, Sr. Warden; Fred Bowden, Jr. Warden; Jan Johnson; Mark Prouty; and Susanne Southwood. Absent: Brent Bowers, Kate Martin, Claire Holland. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a prayer.

Reports

Minutes: Susanne moved for September 15, 2008, minutes to be accepted with corrections, Mark seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Total income \$40,978.01, expenses \$43,693.55, for a balance forward of \$5,891.99. Jan moved to accept, Joan seconded; motion carried.

Diocesan Convention: Brief discussion of events, especially clarification of how assessment is calculated excluding capital expenditures.

Skip Lee visit to discuss our investments to be rescheduled for November 17.

Old Business

Vestry Resource Guide chapter 4 review.

Discussed "Tuesdays at Trinity" concept.

Stewardship—appreciation for letter and article to all involved.

Gospel Choir visit—listed potential recipient organizations, but decided to determine where to donate proceeds after event.

Review of proposed Parish bylaws. After minor corrections, they will be presented at annual meeting.

New Business

Participation in Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Hope Lutheran Church, Tuesday, November 25.

Thanksgiving Eucharist to be offered at Trinity. Motion by Susanne, seconded by Jan; motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17. Fred moved to adjourn, Joan seconded; motion carried. ❖

Parish Survey Results: Update

by Jan Johnson

The parish survey completed in early summer produced several clear messages. Of our local parishioners, 69% were interviewed.

Most cited our historical heritage, music, and warm, welcoming people as Trinity's greatest strengths and people's reasons for liking Trinity. Among the suggestions for things needing attention were the sermons and the perceived disaffection of a significant minority.

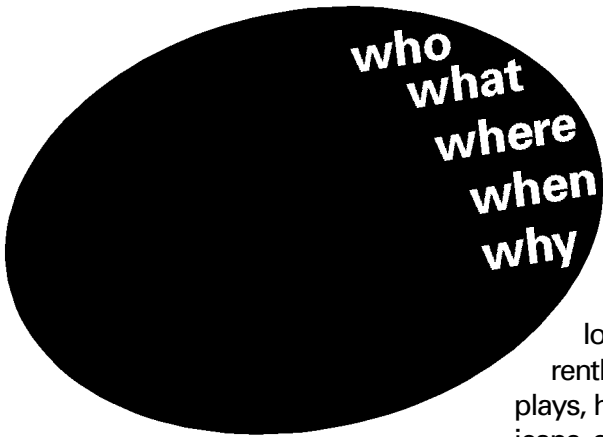
It was noteworthy that more than a quarter of our local parishioners are either not attending regularly or not attending at all. A significant number of respondents also questioned the mission and management of the Women's Guild (ECW).

The Vestry has devoted a great deal of time in the four months since completion of the survey considering the results and deciding how to respond. First, we recognized that we have the makings of a strong presence in our community. If we focus on our three core strengths in everything we do, we can make the most of what we have.

Accordingly, we will try our best to make our Sunday service beautiful and meaningful every Sunday and make every

Con't on pg. 7





■ As in previous years, the generosity of Dick's Piggly-Wiggly in Dodgeville will enable you to make a gift to the church, simply by shopping. Beginning December 1 and continuing throughout the month, we are invited to save our Piggly-Wiggly grocery receipts and give them to a designated person—in our case, **Fr. Hector**—by the end of December. He will then turn them over to Dick's for tabulation. (Please mail your receipts to the church, or simply put them in an envelope in the collection plate.) At the end of January, Dick's will contribute 1% of the total receipts to Trinity. This is a painless way to make a contribution to Trinity—please plan to participate.

■ Brighten the holidays for someone serving in the armed forces. This year, although the US post office will not deliver Christmas cards addressed to "Any Soldier," the American Red Cross will. Through December 10 you can send your greeting card, with a return address, to Holiday Mail for Heroes, P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456. Not accepted: CARE packages, money, or any inserts, including glitter. You can even download cards from the American Red Cross Web site to send to the

address above. Pitney-Bowes has volunteered to screen the cards for hazardous material.

■ We Care at the Southwest CAP office, 149 N. Iowa in Dodgeville, is currently in need of cribs, pack 'n plays, high chairs, strollers, men's jeans, snow boots in all sizes, adult blankets, adult socks, beds and dressers, and working appliances—and of course, money donations are always welcome. The new office hours are Monday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you'd like to help out, just stop by the SWCAP office during office hours.

■ Reservations are due January 15 for the Province V ECW annual meeting April 24–26 in Indianapolis (Phoebe Griswold is the keynote speaker). Call 317-407-1955 for details or go to www.ecw.indydia.org.

■ It's official: IRA owners ages 70-1/2 and older may make gifts directly from their traditional or Roth IRAs to charities, including Trinity church, in 2008 and 2009.

In "Division C—the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008" of H.R. 1424, Congress permits an IRA owner age 70-1/2 or older to make a direct transfer to charity. Up to \$100,000 may be transferred in one year.

You may request that this gift to charity be counted as part of your required minimum distribution, if you have not already received it this year. Gifts made

with this transfer from your IRA do not increase your federal taxable income nor do they affect Social Security payments you receive.

To transfer a gift to Trinity or another approved charity, contact your IRA Custodian and your tax advisor for full information.

■ Watch the mail for your Christmas letter—it will include the Flowers and Greens Offering envelope for thank-offerings and memorials.

■ The Iowa County Department of Social Services is once again taking applications for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program. Criteria for the program include residency in Iowa county, U.S. citizenship, and an income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. Examples of income limits for this program are \$1,300/month for single persons, \$1,750 for two-person families, \$2,200 for three-person families, and \$2,650 for families of four. .

Other assistance programs and services can be accessed through the Iowa County Health Department, Veterans' Department, Commission on Aging, and the Southwest Wisconsin Community Action Programs (SWCAP).

If you know someone in need of this type of assistance, please call the Iowa County Department of Social Services at 608-935-9311.

■ *Sign in a Tokyo car rental firm:* When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.

Gospel music rocks Trinity—and it rocks the Opera House, too

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! —*Psalm 100*

Starting with an afternoon of Gospel music instruction at Trinity followed by an evening of toe-tapping, hand-clapping Gospel music that rocked the Mineral Point Opera House, the weekend of November 15–16 was a joyful one.

The fun began at 2:00 p.m. Saturday when members of Milwaukee’s acclaimed All Saints’ Gospel Choir arrived at Trinity to present a two-hour Gospel music workshop, led by choir director Arlene Skwierawski and song director KC Williams.

“Clap on the two and four, not the one and three,” Williams told the workshop participants. And clap they did, learning the four-part harmony for more than a dozen Gospel songs.

Following the workshop, Trinity hosted a gala dinner in the undercroft for the choir members and workshop participants—a huge success in itself, if the empty bowls and cleaned-off plates were any indication.

Then came the highlight of the day—the 7:30 p.m. concert at the Mineral Point Opera House at which workshop participants were invited to join the Gospel Choir on stage. Four of Trinity’s own “saints”—**Fred Bowden, Kathy Madigan, and Mark and Dorothy Prouty**—joined in, clapping (on the two and four) and

singing as if they’d been with the All Saints’ choir for years.

In one of the evening’s highlights, Williams invited the enthusiastic audience to join the choir in singing Gospel favorites, including “Victory is Mine” and “Heaven’s On the Other Side.”

The concert concluded with “Yes We Can Change the Future,” written by Skwierawski, Williams, and Cortez Burt. “We’re hoping President-elect Obama will



include the song in his inauguration celebration,” Williams said.

Although some choir members returned to Milwaukee Saturday night, others stayed as guests of **Jim and Barbara Ballard**, Fred and **Katherine Bowden**, **Bob Davenport** and **Carol Milanich**, and **Barbara and Fr. Hector Joan and Tom Faull** volunteered as hosts, but their guest couldn’t handle the stairs, so Sharon Stauffer and Ben Russell stepped in at the last minute to provide accessible accommodations. Shake Rag Alley made some of their cottages available for the night.

The next morning, Trinity was the scene of an unprecedented celebration, as the All Saints’ choir members reprised favorite Gospel hymns at the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist and invited the congregation to join them in song.

And at the coffee hour that followed, our guests were unanimous in their appreciation for the wonderful time they’d had here. A number of choir members, in fact, said that of all the places they’ve

been on tour—in the U.S., Europe, and Africa—they’ve never been met with such warm hospitality as they received here at Trinity. On being thanked for the wonderful music, one singer responded, “Oh, no—thank *you!* You folks are just a *bomb!*”

Although the workshops and concert didn’t turn a profit, we did break even—and had a wonderful time doing it. Both Skwierawski and Williams expressed hope that they could come back to Trinity and do it all over again next year.

The event was co-sponsored by Trinity and Shake Rag Alley, with generous help from Phil Mrozinski at the Mineral Point Opera House. **Jan Johnson** spearheaded the arrangements, and too many Trinity parishioners to count contributed valuable time, effort, and expertise.

All told, it was a good job well done—kudos to all! ❖

'Tuesdays at Trinity' program kicks off with Fr. Hector spilling the beans about Santa

As the poster below says, Fr. Hector will tell all about Santa Claus at 7:00 p.m., December 2. The free presentation is open to all and inaugurates a monthly "Tuesdays at Trinity" program of talks, workshops, and other programs of interest to us and the

larger community.

Plan to come December 2, and mark your calendar for January 6, too, when we'll celebrate Epiphany with a 7:00 p.m. Eucharist, followed by dessert and a brief "Tuesdays at Trinity" talk by Fr. Hector, "Letting in the Light."



God has no one except you

As reported in the Chicago "Sun-Times," Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu recently told a Chicago audience, "God has no one except you. God says, 'Help me. Help me make this world the kind of world I intended for it to be. Help me. Help me to make this a world that is more compassionate . . . where there will be no poverty; where my children won't spend as much as they do on weapons of destruction.'"

Quoting a passage from the Gospel of St. John in the New Testament, Tutu reminded Christians that Jesus said, "I will draw all people to myself."

"His embrace is so wide that it leaves no one outside," Tutu said. "All are inside. All. ALL! Do you understand ALL? Black, white, rich, poor, clever, not-so-clever, beautiful, not-so-beautiful. All. Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Baha'i. All. All. All. Gay, lesbian, so-called straight. All. . . . Bush. Bin Laden. Palestinian. Israeli. All. All. All. Help me!"



Jolly old elf? Sinterklaas? Kris Kringle? Belsnickel?

Find out at this FREE talk by Fr. Bob Hector!

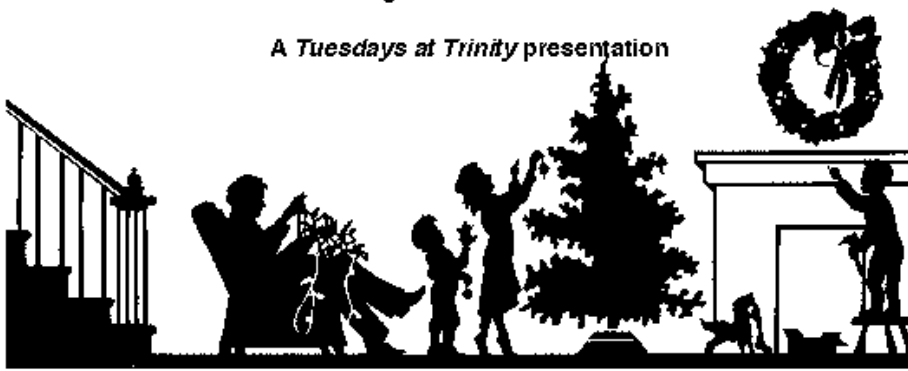
Get the Christmas season off to a good start . . . bring your family and get the whole Santa story.

All are welcome.

7:00–8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 2, 2008 • Trinity Episcopal Church
409 High St. • Mineral Point**

A Tuesdays at Trinity presentation



How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

It depends.

- **Charismatic:** Only one. Hands already in the air.
- **Pentecostals:** Ten. One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.
- **Presbyterians:** None. Lights will go on and off at predestined times.
- **Roman Catholic:** None. Candles only.
- **Baptists:** At least 15. One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad.
- **Episcopalians:** Three. One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks and one to talk about how much better the old one was.
- **Unitarians:** We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own

journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a



poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number

of light bulb traditions including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

- **Methodists:** Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Church-wide lighting service is planned for Sunday. Bring bulb of your choice and a covered dish.
- **Nazarene:** Six. One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.
- **Lutherans:** None. Lutherans don't believe in change.
- **Amish:** What's a light bulb?

The source of this bit of whimsy, of course, is some anonymous contributor to the Internet.

Parish Survey—*con't from pg. 3*
contact anyone has with Trinity a positive experience reinforced by one or more of our strengths.

Three small subcommittees were formed to consider how to do this. So far, one group—comprised of **Kate Martin, Bill Burden, and Dorothy Prouty**—has produced a plan. Kate's group was charged with thinking about our spiritual lives and about ecumenical outreach. Their ideas will appear in the "High Notes" next month. A second group, led by **Fred Bowden**, is considering music, and a third group, led by **Mark**

Prouty, is considering human and material resources. A result of their work is yet to come.

Fr. Hector noted the comments about sermons and has been working diligently on creating shorter, pithier messages. **Joan Faull, Barbara Hector, and I** met to consider criticisms of the Guild and decided on three actions: (1) a visit by Connie Ott, diocesan ECW chair, to discuss the ECW mission and programs with Guild members, (2) a March election of officers, and (3) regular reporting of the Guild treasurer's report along with the

parish report at Vestry meetings. Numbers 1 and 3 have already been done.

The All Saints' Gospel Choir visit on November 15 is a prime example of how we can build Trinity's image in the community through music. The experience also strengthened our commitment to each other in the enjoyment of a shared experience. We had fun together. Over the coming months and years I hope that we can make good use of the insights gained from the survey to continuously reinforce the good things we are—and do. ❖

—Robert Kennedy
grace of God."

wisdom through the awful
despair, against our will, comes
the heart, until, in our own
forget falls drop by drop upon
our sleep, pain which cannot
lus. He once wrote: "Even in
My favorite poet was Aeschyl-

O WISDOM!



Never use Christmaside as an
escape from reality, and name any
losses that you feel at Christmas, be
it the loss of a job, or a relationship,
or loved ones. Toast those who
have died, and as tears mingle with
fond memories, savor the lives that
blessed you deeply. The Child born
for us knows all of our pain and
loss. Acknowledge that every
Christmas is different in some
ways, even as the timeless mes-
sage is unchanged: the One who
Saves, Redeems, and Loves us, is
born for us.
Excerpt from a pastoral reflection on the
Twelve Days of Christmas by the Very
Rev. Terry White, Dean of Grace and
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, MO.

News deadline for *High Notes* is the 20th of the
month preceding publication. Please send your news
to Susanne Southwood, delatadirect@earthlink.net.

Marjorie Roberts, *Trinity Guild*
Dorothy Prouty, *Musician*
Sara Hector, *Treasurer*

ALSO

Le Hector, *Altar Guild*
Jan Johnson (2008)
Claire Holland (2008)
Brent Bowers (2010)

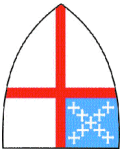
VESTRY

Joan Fall, *Senior Warden* (2008)
Fred Bowden, *Junior Warden* (2008)

WARDENS

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, and laying
on of hands for healing
9:30 a.m. Christian Formation for children

SUNDAY WORSHIP



Trinity Church

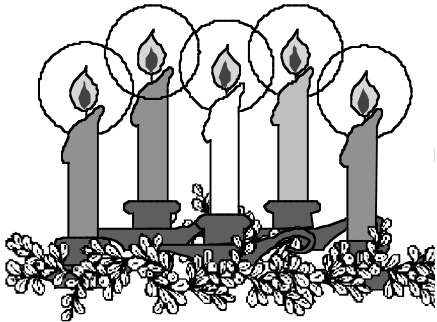
The Episcopal Parish in Iowa County • 608 . 987 . 3019

Trinity High Notes—December 2008

TRINITY CHURCH

The Episcopal Parish in Iowa County
409 High St. • Mineral Point, WI 53565
trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED



A very blessed Christmas to
you and yours!