

February 2009

TRINITY

High Notes

News for and about members of Trinity Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Dr. J. Robert Hector,
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From Fr. Hector

"Epiphany" is a word which has gained a fair amount of popular usage, meaning a grasp of "understanding," or the "ah ha" moment. Epiphany is our "missionary season," where we gain the impetus to share with others, so that they may not feel distant from Christ, but feel welcome and welcomed.

The primary lesson is that "faith" is not mere intellectual consent, but participation. Our ideas must be matched with action. Of course, the truth of this is most obvious when we seek to share, because it is in the sharing that we ourselves learn the most. Our culture tells us that faith is a private matter. Epiphany tells us that faith involves everyone, and that there is no such thing as a private faith. Let me share one example and one story.

The example is to consider the crowds of people who came to Washington for President Obama's Inauguration, matched only by the millions more who followed the events on the television and radio. There was a feeling of unity and shared purpose.

I was particularly moved by the use of prayer. Bishop Robinson of New Hampshire opened the inaugural events with prayer at the Lincoln Memorial on Sunday. The inaugural ceremony itself was bracketed with prayer. On Wednesday, President Obama was at the National Cathedral for an interfaith prayer service. Such is participation and action.

The story is how we may seek to dwell on one aspect or another, but participation calls for movement. Once a mother and father tucked their little daughter in bed, helped her with her prayers, said "good night," and went downstairs. All seemed well, until they heard a loud thump from her room. Hurrying, they found their daughter on the floor by her bed. They asked "what happened?" And she said, "I guess I stayed too close to where I got in."

However stirring the inauguration, it was the result of a two-year primary process, and marks the beginning of four long years of leadership. However we may be attracted to one facet or another of the church, we need to look to the whole body, and to realize how much we share together, and not try to stay "where we got in."

Just as the thousands gathered to share in "the moment," we gain in appreciation when we celebrate what we value. Epiphany is our time to celebrate and to share the life which Christ shares with us.

Just as the cold did not deter the crowds from gathering for the inauguration, the "cold" we may encounter, whether our own reticence in speaking and acting, or the reticence of others in listening or participating, in no way diminishes the value of the message we have this Epiphany.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Hector+

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

Monday, December 15, 2008 (approved Monday, January 19, 2009)

In attendance: Fr. Bob Hector; Joan Faull, Sr. Warden; Fred Bowden, Jr. Warden; Claire Holland; Jan Johnson; Mark Prouty; and Kate Martin. Absent: Brent Bowers, Susanne Southwood. The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer.

Reports

- *Minutes:* Claire moved for November 27, 2008, minutes to be accepted, Kate seconded; motion carried.
- *Treasurer's report:* Total income as of December 9 was \$46,098.32; expenses \$52,409.74; and a balance forward of \$2,296.11. Mark moved to accept the report, Jan seconded; motion carried. The 2009 budget will be presented next meeting.

Old Business

- Review of the Vestry Resource Guide on Endowments. We had wanted a proposal in time for the Annual meeting. Jan agreed to prepare a draft to be circulated among the Endowment Committee for inclusion in the

newsletter. Fr. Hector will check with Diocese for additional information and legal advice.

- Jan and Kate will be seeking replacements as their Vestry terms expire. Claire is also seeking a replacement to fill Candee's position.
- The Trinity Web site—www.trinitympt.org—is online and nearly complete.

New Business

- If approved at the January Annual Parish Meeting, the churchyard will be scheduled for completion in September 2009, in time for its consecration when Bishop Miller visits.
- Vestry members are to complete their Mutual Ministry Review and submit it to Fr. Hector by January 19, 2009.
- December and January events were noted.
- Legate Hall carpet to be cleaned Monday, January 12.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 19. Jan moved to adjourn, Kate seconded; motion carried.

ho, ho, ho!

Christmas found us making merry in a variety of ways

Dorothy Prouty: For us, the month of December seems so hectic and stressful with the obligations of the season. So, the things that I have come to like best: To listen to my wonderful collection of Christmas music, admire and remember connections for the ornaments on the tree, sing and play some of my favorite carols at the top of my lungs, and play games with our kids—new ones, but also the ones we've enjoyed for many many years.

Kate Martin: Christmas for me operates on two levels, culturally and spiritually. The historical traditions are lovely in their own right. Also the preparations and celebrations are sacred with holy anticipation. Decorating, baking, cooking, thoughtful shopping and gentle wrapping; programs, concerts, and church services are such joyful aspects of the season. (Mall shopping to me is in direct antithesis of any meaningful Advent activity. This is where Christmas has been used and abused in the name of profit, anxiety, and grab-and-go shopping.) Then, preparations complete, cultural

(Con't on page 4)



Christmas—con't from page 3 touches in place, Eucharist celebrated during which time we welcome the Newborn Child anew, our family gathers. For us, the nexus of Christmas comes as we bow our heads together prior to the feast knowing that the love of the Incarnate Christ flows among our tightly knit hearts.

Susanne Southwood: So here we are in an Amish farm drive, twenty-five miles from Mineral Point, the snow's up to our knees, we're trying to get to the barn—about the length of a football field away—where our free-range turkey awaits, Tom's being Good King Wenceslaus and I'm doing the peasant bit, trying to tred boldly in his footsteps as the carol says, except that 6'4" Tom's stride is considerably longer than mine and it's not working, and then just as I decide to give up and let the turkey land where it may, this little boy wearing a broad-brimmed straw hat comes struggling through the drifts towards us, pulling a bright blue toboggan with the biggest free-range turkey—heck, the biggest *any* kind of turkey—I've ever seen and he and Tom drag it the rest of the way and I make my contribution—I get the car trunk open—and we head back home where the turkey is the star attraction at Christmas dinner two days later.

And I think, hmmm. Maybe next year we'll just have ham.

Kathy Madigan: I am grateful for the generosity of my Trinity friends, Susanne Southwood

■ Have we got your number? (*And correctly spelled names, address, and email address?*) Trinity's **2009 Parish Directory** is about to go to press, but there's still time to make additions or corrections to your listing. Please email **Susanne Southwood** at deltadirect@earthlink.net by February 6 at the latest if any changes need to be made. Thank you!

■ We extend a warm welcome to **Anne Chapman**, who is Trinity's newest member. A native of Australia, Anne moved here in late 2007 and is living with her daughter and son-in-law.

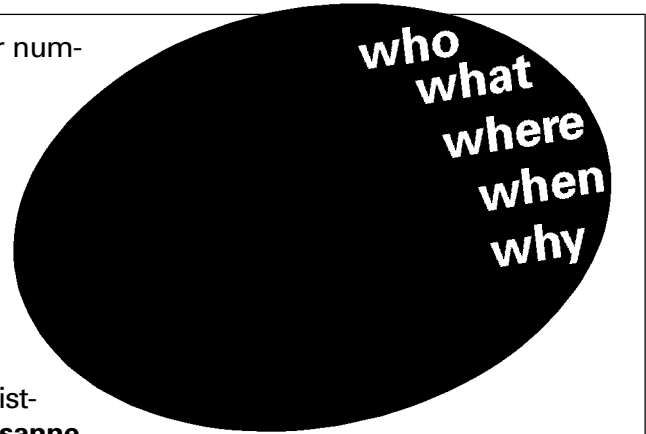
■ **Kathy Madigan** sends us this Winter Wear update: "I've reg-

istered Trinity Episcopal to help with Winter Wear for Folks in Dodgeville on Saturday, April 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (It is a Saturday that I can work.) I hope that some other people can help me with this volunteer effort. Saturday is the only day that Winter Wear is open for people to come and get free clothing, so I am told it gets busy and we'll need at least two people. Contact me at 608-935-3866 if you'd like to help."

and Tom Barker, for opening their hearts and home to me as I was once again snowed out and fogged out of going down to Illinois to join my family and friends for the Christmas holidays. We had a wonderful time (I sure did) filled with chatter, laughter, and eating. I hope everyone else found a warm, safe, and happy place to be for Christmas. Thank you, Susanne and Tom—the turkey and trimmings were wonderful, and the terrific stories were even better (and yes, I heard first-hand about the turkey on the toboggan).

Jan Johnson: James and I burned

our solstice candle all night the 21st. For Christmas dinner, James put on our traditional Alsecan sauerkraut with dumplings and played tapes of our favorite music (we haven't arrived at the CD revolution yet). As unsettled as the weather has been we decided not to make the trek to Minnesota. Instead, I called my mom and talked to everybody gathered at her home. The highlight was a call from an old friend from college days who has become a third brother in our family. He had been out of the country for many years working for USAID and has now retired to Virginia. ❖



Juanita Starr & Ronda Swanson

The co-coördinators of We Care in Dodgeville—a not-for-profit organization that provides clothing, furniture, and household items to the needy—talk to the *High Notes* about their work

High Notes: How long have you been working at We Care?

Juanita: I started in March 2006, and Ronda has been here since the beginning—in February 2006. In fact, she helped set it up.

High Notes (to Ronda): What prompted you to start We Care?

Ronda: I knew there was a need. I grew up in a poor county and I've seen many people I know, or used to know, having a hard time making ends meet. I knew that if I could make this work it could change lives—but I never really understood how much it would change mine.

High Notes (to Ronda): Did you have help starting it?

Ronda: Yes. Donna Peterson and Lisa Rockweller helped set it up in the basement of Grace Lutheran church in Dodgeville, and the church let us use the basement free for the first year. Many other churches have donated clothing, volunteers, and cash to help us get by, and Wally here at SWCAP let us rent the basement from them.

High Notes: How would you define the mission of We Care?

Ronda: Our mission is to supply families in need with diapers, wipes, laundry soap, clothing, and other supplies they may need. Since there aren't any other sources to help them with these items, we started We Care specifically for them.

High Notes: What was it like in the beginning?

Juanita: All we had was two clothing racks and a few strollers. Now we have the entire basement level of the SWCAP building.

High Notes: Do your clients have to pass a means test?

Ronda: Absolutely not. We don't ask questions, and everything we have here we give free to our clients—from teddy bears to winter boots to diapers.

High Notes: Have things changed since you started?

Ronda: We're serving a lot more people—in fact, we're now serving families in thirteen Wisconsin counties. We had six new families come in just yesterday. Our clients may have been laid off at Lands' End or at Cummins, or just gone through a divorce, or they've been abused, or they can't work because of bad health.

Juanita: And we've seen a huge increase in just the last six months in the need for men's clothing. We can't keep it in stock.

High Notes: How many families do you serve?

Juanita: It's impossible to say—we don't keep track of the individuals who come in. But our special program that provides diapers, wipes, and laundry detergent served sixty families in December 2007—and in December 2008, it was 179 families. That's a 300 per cent increase. We have to buy those products, and in December 2007 we actually

Con't on page 6

The invocation

offered by the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire, at the opening inaugural event, Lincoln Memorial, January 18.

O God of our many understandings, we pray that you will . . .

Bless us with tears—for a world in which over a billion people exist on less than a dollar a day, where young women from many lands are beaten and raped for wanting an education, and thousands die daily from malnutrition, malaria, and AIDS.

Bless us with anger—at discrimination, at home and abroad, against refugees and immigrants, women, people of color, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Bless us with discomfort—at the easy, simplistic “answers” we’ve preferred to hear from our politicians, instead of the truth, about ourselves and the world, which we need to face if we are going to rise to the challenges of the future.

Bless us with patience—and the knowledge that none of what ails us will be “fixed” any time soon, and the understanding that our new president is a human being, not a messiah.

Bless us with humility—open to understanding that our own needs must always be balanced with those of the world.

Bless us with freedom from mere tolerance—replacing it with a genuine respect and warm embrace of our differences, and an understanding that in our diversity, we are stronger.

Bless us with compassion and generosity—remembering that

every religion’s God judges us by the way we care for the most vulnerable in the human community, whether across town or across the world.

And God, we give you thanks for your child Barack, as he assumes the office of President of the United States.

Give him wisdom beyond his

years, and inspire him with Lincoln’s reconciling leadership style, President Kennedy’s ability to enlist our best efforts, and Dr. King’s dream of a nation for ALL the people.


Give him a quiet heart, for our Ship of State needs a steady, calm captain in these times.

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PREPARING FOR A GOOD DEATH

Insights, guidance, and comfort for caregivers,
patients, and anyone who wants help dealing
with the fact that faces us all.

**A FREE non-denominational talk by
Claire Holland, independent clinical social worker
and licensed therapist
All are welcome.**



**7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 3
Trinity Episcopal Church
409 High St. (enter on Iowa St.) • Mineral Point**
A Tuesdays at Trinity presentation

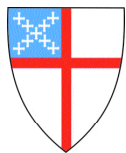
TRINITY CHURCH
The Episcopal Parish in Iowa County
 409 High St. • Mineral Point, WI 53565
 trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
 REQUESTED**



Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 25
10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
 Litany of penance,
 imposition of ashes,
 and Holy Eucharist.



Trinity Church

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

WARDENS

Jan Johnson, *Senior Warden* (2009)
 Fred Bowden, *Junior Warden* (2009)

VESTRY

Brent Bowers (2010)
 Joan Faull (2011)
 Kate Martin (2010)
 Bob Oberhauser (2011)
 Mark Prouty, *Secretary* (2009)
 Susanne Southwood (2009)

ALSO

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

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

Invocation—*con't from page 7*

Give him stirring words, for we will need to be inspired and motivated to make the personal and common sacrifices necessary to facing the challenges ahead.

Make him color-blind, reminding him of his own words that under his leadership, there will be neither red nor blue states, but the United States.

Help him remember his own oppression as a minority, drawing on that experience of discrimination, that he might seek to change the lives of those who are still its victims.

Give him the strength to find family time and privacy, and help him remember that even though he is president, a father only gets one shot at his daughters' childhoods.

And please, God, keep him safe. We know we ask too much of our presidents, and we're asking FAR too much of this one. We know the risk he and his wife are taking for all of us, and we implore you, O good and great God, to keep him safe. Hold him in the palm of your hand – that he might do the work we have called him to do, that he might find joy in this impossible calling, and that in the end, he might lead us as a nation to a place of integrity, prosperity and peace. AMEN.