

november 2010

High Notes

News for and about members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church, Mineral Point, WI

- 1 *Answer: The elected Vestry*
- 2 *November calendar • Birthdays and anniversaries • Grace at Thanksgiving dinner*
- 3 *Who, what, where, when, and sometimes, why • Episcopal Relief and Development*
- 4 *A pastoral letter from the House of Bishops*
- 5 *Notes from our delegates to the Diocesan Convention*
- 6 *Minutes of the September Vestry meeting*
- 7 *Dr. Gyal returns for another program on Tibetan medicine • Your baptismal anniversary*
- 8 *Oops!*

With the first permanent English colony in Jamestown, Virginia, 1607, came the first Church of England parish. As settlement continued, each community and plantation organized as a parish. Unlike the English parishes, where the local squire took leadership of the temporal affairs, there were no landed gentry on this side of the Atlantic. To provide leadership, each parish elected from its number, a group of twelve men (a good Biblical number) to oversee parish endeavors, which, besides the care of church building and clergy, included education for the young, care for the old, ill, and indigent, and such health care as there was. The name for this group came from the room in which they met, the vesting room. "Vestry" members in those days did not have term limits, but served long and, by all accounts, well.

It was the elected Vestry that demonstrated to Thomas Jefferson that the ordinary citizen, when elected, could rise from petty rivalry, and serve the common good. Despite his Enlightenment ideas, Jefferson had no illusion as to the "goodness" of mankind, but the example of the elected Vestry was proof that democracy could work.

By 1750, the Church of England was not only dominant through the colonies, but also popular. Life centered on the Church, and the custom of the elected Vestry was one common trait throughout the colonies. When it came time to create a new order of government in 1789, we had the basis of nearly two hundred

years of elected leadership. It was a trusted and familiar pattern. Also, its guiding character came from providing leadership in the service of God.

On the other hand, the war had seriously disrupted the local parishes of the Church of England, and the Methodist persuasion proved to be attractive to many of its members, who organized very easily, electing and locally ordaining their leadership. It wasn't until 1792, when we had three priests, elected locally and ordained as bishop in England, that the Episcopal Church could do the same.

Even though England has a long history of an elected Parliament, other countries do not. We do well to remember this when we seek to "export democracy." Iraq was created in 1918 out of a corner of the Ottoman Empire. Their learning curve is steep, as they, at our urging, try to use elections to select their leadership. Likewise, Afghanistan's only experience in elected leadership has been by our urging.

In this issue of *High Notes* we have accounts of our recent Diocesan Convention, composed of elected delegates from each parish. This year, we elected our Deputies to the 2012 General Convention. This is how we order our Church.

The process is a wonder to much of the world. It is second nature to us, who gained our experience and trust of such a system through our Colonial elected Vestries.

—Fr. Hector+

The Rev. Dr. J. Robert Hector,
Priest-in-Charge
trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com
www.trinitympt.org

November@Trinity

Monday, November 1

Feast of All Saints.

Tuesday, November 2

9:30 a.m. Feast of All Souls. Holy Eucharist, with commemoration of the Blessed Departed. A form for listing the names of the dead whom you wish to remember was included with your Sunday bulletin on October 24 and 31; please put it in the plate before November 1.

"Tuesdays at Trinity" presents Dr. Yangbum Gyal, T.M.D., a consultant at the Medicine Buddha Healing Center in Spring Green. See page 5.

Sunday, November 7

9:30 a.m. All Saints' Sunday. Coffee hour donations this morning go to the Mineral Point Care Center's "Dimes for Bingo" program.

Daylight Savings Time ends. Set clocks *back* one hour.

Saturday, November 13

9:00 a.m.– Third annual Pre-Advent Day of Reflection for women of the diocese. Register by November 9. See page 3.
3:00 p.m.

Monday, November 22

7:00 p.m. Vestry meeting in the undercroft.

Tuesday, November 23

7:00 p.m. Mineral Point ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Faith Lutheran Church, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary.

Thursday, November 25

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 28

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. First Sunday of Advent.

Coming up . . .

Saturday, December 4

Holiday Gift Fair at Trinity. The Guild's major event of the year—please help make it a great one! (See page 3.)

Birthdays

6 Beverly Zimmerman
9 Sue Vaughn
14 Cole Johnson
15 Carol Jean Brown
25 Allison Ladd
26 Stephen Ladd

Anniversaries

26 Jeremy and Linda Meek



Grace at Thanksgiving Dinner

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

who
what
where
when
why

begun at King's College, Cambridge, in 1918, is a beloved part of our Christmas celebrations, and this year we are honored to have Bishop Steven Miller join us for the celebration.

■ The third annual pre-Advent Day of Reflection on Saturday, November 13, offers all women of the diocese a chance to enjoy a day away, before the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Led by the Rev. Holly Whitcomb, a spiritual director and writer, the program will focus on "The Uncluttered Heart: Availability as a transforming spiritual practice." How do we unclutter our hearts and cultivate availability as a spiritual practice? Come explore how we might live—available to God, to ourselves, to others. At Cedar Valley Retreat Center, West Bend; \$25. Registration deadline is November 9; forms are on the bulletin board in the undercroft.

■ You've probably read recently about the poll conducted by the Pew Forum which sought to determine what the average American knew about religion. (You may also recall that atheists/agnostics, Jews, and Mormons, in that order, scored highest.) Now, you can take a short, fifteen-question version of the quiz online at <http://features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge/index.php> (or go to www.pewresearch.org and click on the link there).

■ Coming up . . . Annual parish meeting after the Sunday Eucharist on January 23, 2011 . . . Bishop Miller's pastoral visitation and dedication of the Tillotson volumes on January 30, 2011.

■ Just around the corner—Trinity's annual **Holiday Gift Fair**, to be held on December 4—just in time for you to stock up on Christmas gifts for everyone on your list. Now's the time to think about how you might be able to contribute to this important event. There will be a crafts table, a Christmas table, and of course, food and candy tables, where breads and all kinds of candies always sell well. This is one of the Guild's major events of the year—last year it raised nearly \$3,000, the amount of the Guild's annual pledge to the church

■ If you haven't already returned your 2011 pledge form (either by putting it in the plate on Sunday or by mailing it to the church), please do so at your earliest convenience. This year, it costs **about \$3,850 a month** to operate Trinity—a number to keep in mind as you determine your pledge for next year. Your support is vital to our shared ministry, and the Vestry can't start on a realistic budget until all pledges are in. Thank you.

■ Mark your calendar for our annual celebration of **A Festival of Lessons and Carols** here at Trinity on December 12 at 4:30 p.m. (with musical prelude at 4:00), and plan to bring your friends. This service,

What can one person do to heal a hurting world?

More than you might think.

Thanks to an extraordinarily generous group of donors, every gift made to Episcopal Relief and Development by November 30 will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$500,000.

You can provide life-saving, anti-malarial nets to families in Africa. You can supply farmers in Asia with drought-resistant seeds. You can give a family in Central America access to clean water. You can help provide disaster relief to devastated areas in the United States, including the Gulf Coast.

If you give \$50, you'll generate \$100 in assistance to people in need. A gift of \$100 creates \$200 in aid. And a gift of \$500 will bring food, health care, sanitation, housing, micro-credit loans, and much more to people all over the world.

With Christmas just around the corner, this might be just the time to put Episcopal Relief and Development on your gift list. To donate, please go to www.er-d.org.

Among the funds you can specify as the recipients of your gift are the Women's Development Fund, the Haiti Earthquake Response Fund, the Clean Water Fund, the Hurricane Relief Fund, the Economic Opportunities Fund, the Health Fund, the Hunger Fund, and more.

They all need your help—and by giving now, your help is doubled. Thank you.

A pastoral letter from the House of Bishops

Phoenix, Arizona, September 21, 2010

There shall be for you and the resident alien a single statute, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you and the alien shall be alike before the Lord. You and the alien who resides with you shall have the same law and the same ordinance (Numbers 15:15–16).

So [Christ] came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:17–19).

Dear People of God,

Throughout our meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, we have reflected on the immigration crisis facing our host state, the United States, and all national globally. A number

We categorically reject efforts to criminalize undocumented migrants and immigrants

of us visited the United States-Mexico border and saw first hand the many troubling and complex issues that face migrants, immigrants, the border patrol, local ranchers, and Christian communities seeking to minister to all of these groups. We are also mindful that similar border issues confront other nations represented in the Episcopal Church, especially countries in Europe, the Dominican

Republic and Haiti, and Columbia and Ecuador.

Holy Scripture teaches us that all human beings are made in the image of God, and that Jesus Christ gave his life for all people. Furthermore, both the Old and New Testaments declare the importance of hospitality to resident alien and strangers, a hospitality that rests on our common humanity. All human beings are therefore deserving of dignity and respect, as we affirm in our Baptismal Covenant (Book of Common Prayer, p.305). So our gracious welcome of immigrants, documented or undocumented, is a reflection of God's grace poured out on us and on all. In this light:

(1) Ours is a migratory world in which many people move across borders to escape poverty, hunger, injustice and violence. We categorically reject efforts to criminalize undocumented migrants and immigrants, and deplore the separation of families and the unnecessary incarceration of undocumented workers. Since, as we are convinced, it is natural to seek gainful employment to sustain oneself and one's family, we cannot agree that the efforts of undocumented workers to feed and shelter their households through honest labor are criminal.

(2) We profess that inhumane policies directed against undocumented persons (raids, separation of families, denial of health serv-

ices) are intolerable on religious and humanitarian grounds, as is attested by the consensus of a wide range of religious bodies on this matter.

(3) We call on the government of the United States and all govern-

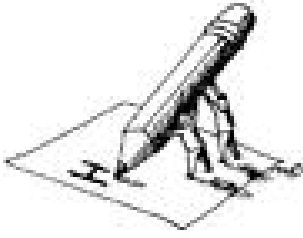
We recognize that racism and bigotry impact debates over migration and immigration.

ments to create fair and humane immigration policies that honor the dignity of people on all sides of this issue. In the United States, we seek a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented workers; a plan to reunite families; and a viable system for receiving temporary or seasonal guest-workers, with clearly identified points of entry. These measures would free the United States border patrol to concentrate its efforts on the apprehension of drug traffickers, terrorists, and other criminals, and not on ordinary people who are simply seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

(4) We acknowledge the duty of governments to protect their people, including the securing of borders. The church has always respected this duty, which is grounded in government's God-given duty to protect innocent people and punish wrongdoers (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).

(5) We recognize that racism and bigotry impact debates over migration and immigration. The Episcopal Church is committed to the eradication of all forms of racism, and decries the use of racial profiling in the arrest of persons sus-

(Con't on page 7)



Notes from our delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention

Fred Bowden: The convention as a whole was very well organized and ran smoothly. I was particularly impressed with the demeanor and the abilities of the Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts Schori. She is knowledgeable and responded to every question she was asked in a friendly, yet humble manner. She and her husband joined our Bible study group, participating in listening and discussion. She took a microphone to the floor of the convention, covering it from one side to the other for forty-five minutes, and answered the questions from the delegates, each one immediately and directly.

Barbara J. Hector: Reflections on the Youth Ministry Workshop
Bronwyn Skov, the Program Officer for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults, Episcopal Church Center, New York, led a workshop on Youth Ministry and Congregational Renewal for a full room of delegates and some fourteen teenagers. Even though we don't have "youth," the rest of the title sounded good, and it was good.

Bronwyn grew up in Chicago-land, with parents who had no interest in religion. They moved to Galena. Going to one church (she named it) with friends, she was summarily dismissed. Going to Grace [Episcopal] Church, she was welcomed by the priest, and seated next to a family that she knew.

Looking around she saw many of the parent's friends, and decided

that the Episcopal Church was the place to be. There was laughter when she told how her parents responded to her decision to her parents, and how they dutifully drove her to church on Sunday.

She used these three points to describe how we likewise can help others to be active members:

- By inviting, placing ourselves in the story of faith;
- by inspiring, discerning God's will; and
- by transforming, living in the love of God.

Of course, this is just the outline of an enjoyable hour.

Fr. Bob Hector: Imagine a family reunion with 400 people present, and you have a good idea of the 163rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee. Some things are obligatory, like elections, and accepting the budget. Some things are informative, like the thirty booths of vendors and displays, which is similar to keeping track of your cousins. Of course there is food and music.

The highlight this year was the "Jazz" Compline, which was relaxing, engaging, and excellently performed. This year the special relation who arrived was our Presiding Bishop, who was quiet but engaging. On Friday, we were invited to write our prayer requests on strips of bright cloth, which were then woven into a frontal for the closing Eucharist.

The Convention ended Saturday

with the Eucharist, with every seat full, and with two bagpipers from St. Johns–Northwestern Military Academy leading the procession. Katherine Jefferts Schori, our Presiding Bishop, gave the sermon on the diversity we share through Christ. Uplifting.

This year, it was good to welcome Fr. Christian Maxfield (age 30; he looks 19), who with his wife, Kate, had been in Prairie du Chien for less than a week. And our surprise election, as a deputy to the 2012 General Convention (the really big family reunion), Indianapolis, was Mrs. Janet Finn of Prairie du Chien. David, her husband, mused that "life as we know it is going to change." (Once the elections get announced, all the special interests in the church start sending their mailings.) It'll be fun. Among the clergy deputies elected were Fr. Andy Jones and Deacon Susan Miller of St. Andrews, Madison, so again, the West Convocation is well represented.

Susanne Southwood: Well, our diocesan convention is a convention, after all, and—in many ways—not unlike any of the conventions I've ever been to in my life. People wearing name badges scurrying around, wondering which workshop to attend, people catching up with friends they haven't seen since the last convention—it's all very familiar. But actually, there's a big difference.

At our Diocesan Convention, we
(Con't on page 6)

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

Monday, September 20, 2010

1. The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of September 20, 2008, was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Fr. Hector and opened with prayer. Members present were **Jan Johnson, Joan Faull, Fred Bowden, Carolyn Hunt, and Fr. Hector. Susanne Southwood** voted by proxy.

2. The Minutes for the Meeting of July 19, 2010, were presented. Motion to accept by Jan, s/Fred. Passed.

3. Treasurer's Report was presented, showing YTD income of \$35,371.21 (not including the transfers to Mutual Funds and Columbarium), expenses of \$33,703.10, and a balance on hand of \$11,731.38. Motion to

approve by Jan, s/Joan. Passed.

4. The Matrix of the Vestry Year from The Vestry Resource Guide, p. 74, was discussed.

5. Motion by Joan, s/Fred, to pay to pay the balance of the 2006 assessment. Passed with the proxy vote of Susanne Southwood.

6. Motion by Carolyn, s/Jan, to accept the proposals from Rockweiler Insurance for additional insulation to the church, \$1,447.00, and the rectory, \$1,618.00. Passed with the proxy vote of Susanne Southwood. Trinity Guild will be asked for assistance in this cost.

7. The resignation from the Vestry of Bob Oberhauser was accepted with regret. It was agreed to wait until the Annual Meeting to fill this seat.

8. Fred described work to install a piscina drain in the sacristy, and the need to replace a rotten window sill at the kitchen.

9. Fr. Hector's travel plans and supply clergy were discussed.

10. Motion to adjourn by Jan, s/Carolyn. Passed at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be October 18, 2010.

*Respectfully submitted:
J. R. Hector, Clerk pro tem
All motions passed unanimously
unless otherwise indicated.*

Please note that minutes of Vestry meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the undercroft (after they have been approved at the following month's meeting). You'll also find a copy of the 2011 Diocesan budget, as approved at the Diocesan Convention.

Convention—*con't from page 6*
were all there for one reason only: to do God's work, to deal with the mundane, secular aspects of our church life together (budgets and attendance figures) as well as to the spiritual aspects of our life in Christ, and all for the greater glory of God.

We heard our Presiding Bishop (an impressive woman if ever there was one) answer tough questions from the floor with grace and insight, and we participated in a truly extraordinary Jazz Compline. We voted on people and issues that are important, both in our diocese and in our world. As a body we voted in favor of a resolution condemning domestic vio-

lence and voted down a resolution concerning immigration law. With the Presiding Bishop at our table, Trinity's delegates participated in Bible study with our bishop. We heard about what people and parishes around the diocese are doing to revitalize their ministries. We saw an extraordinary exhibit of liturgical objects—vestments, chalices, croziers (including Bishop Jackson Kemper's crozier, which he carried while making his rounds on horseback and that actually looks like a real shepherd's crook).

And we came home knowing that we'd been part of something meaningful, something important. Something special. ❖

"A good concert hall enables the music to speak with a special freedom and be more than usually true to itself. A prayed-in church does the same with the prayers of those who pray."

—George Culver
Company of Voices, Daily Prayer and the People of God

Immigration—*con't from page 4*

pected of being undocumented.

(6) We confess our own complicit sinfulness as people who benefit from the labor of undocumented workers without recognizing our responsibility to them. We passively tolerate an economic and political system that accepts this labor from millions of undocumented workers, and which has received approximately \$520 billion in Social Security revenue from them—revenues from which they will never benefit. Yet at the same time we treat them as a threat.

(7) We do not discount the concerns of our fellow citizens regarding the danger uncontrolled immigration poses to our safety and economic well-being. We insist, however, that these concerns be approached with the broader context of a national commitment and covenant to inclusion and fellowship across all lines for the sake of the common good.

(8) We take seriously our commitment to and responsibility for our fellow citizens, as we strive to face the spiritual, moral and economic challenges of life in all sixteen nations represented in The Episcopal Church. We call on our fellow citizens to remember that the good of a nation lies beyond its own self-interest, toward a vision of a humanity restored in Jesus Christ, for in him "you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

(9) We offer for additional study a theological resource, "The Nation and the Common Good: Reflections on Immigration Reform." (Online at www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/HOB_theological_resource_on_immigration.pdf.)

God's grace be with us all. ❖

A blessing on your baptismal anniversary!

Every Sunday, at the end of the weekly announcements, people are invited to come forward to receive a blessing on or about their birthday. The anniversary of our birth is a day to celebrate and make merry. It also a time to reflect on life so far and ponder life in the days to come.

The same can and should apply to the anniversary of our baptism. The importance of Holy Baptism is regularly emphasized in our liturgy and in homilies, and at every baptism we are challenged to live more fully into the Baptismal Covenant.

You're invited to do a bit of digging (some of us will no doubt need to undertake some full-fledged excavating) to learn your baptismal date. And while you are poking about, why not also commit to memory or a handy calendar the anniversaries of the days your children, godchildren, and all in your extended family were baptized.


Pray for them on that day, and be in touch with them, following through on the vows you made on the day they were baptized. ❖

Free!

Diet = health? A wake-up call!

Dr. Yangbum Gyal, T.M.D., explains
how Tibetan medicine can help promote
health and healing through an understanding of diet

- *How do the Three Humors relate to your body?*
- *What happens when they're out of balance?*
- *What's vital to your wellness?*
- *What role do you play in your personal health?*



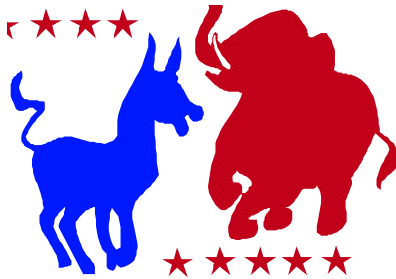
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 2
Trinity Episcopal Church
403 High St. (enter on Iowa St.) • Mineral Point, WI

A FREE "Tuesdays at Trinity" presentation. All are welcome.
Visit us on the Web at www.trinitympt.org

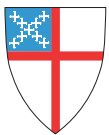
TRINITY CHURCH

The Episcopal Parish in Iowa County
403 High St. • Mineral Point, WI 53565
608 • 987 • 3019
trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com
www.trinitympt.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED



**Don't forget to
VOTE
on November 2!**



Trinity Church

The Episcopal Parish in Iowa County, Wisconsin

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* (2010)
Fred Bowden, *Junior Warden* (2010)

VESTRY

Brent Bowers (2010)
Joan Faull (2011)
Carolyn Hunt (2010)
Mark Prouty (2012)
Susanne Southwood, *Clerk* (2012)

AND ALSO

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

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



GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE RUMMAGE SALE!

Last month's *High Notes* incorrectly reported that the September rummage sale netted only a disappointing \$392. Happily, the actual total is \$652—much more in line with the results of previous sales, and, coincidentally, the exact amount earned at the Fall 2007 sale. For the record, the Fall 2008 total was \$581 and last year's was \$837.

We have it on good authority that the gremlins who got into the initial numbers have been sent packing.