

december 2011

High Notes

News for and about members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church, Mineral Point, WI
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- 1 *Advent: A time of wonder*
- 2 *December at Trinity • Birthdays, anniversaries • Assignments*
- 3 *Who, what, where, when, and sometimes, why • Minutes of the November Guild meeting*
- 4 *Two gala celebrations—coming up!*
- 5 *In defense of Santa*
- 6 *Minutes of the October Vestry meeting*
- 7 *Holy women, holy men*
- 8 *Minutes of the November Vestry meeting*
- 9 *How do we invest our wealth?*
- 10 *Trinity ad debuts in the Visitors' Guide*

The Rev. Dr. J. Robert Hector,
Priest in Charge
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ADVENT is a time of wonder. Wonder? Why wonder? Humanly, through we may deny it, our desire is for a predictable God. The Greeks and Romans gave their members of the pantheon all our human foibles, rehearsed endlessly on mid-day TV drama. Our faith is in contrast. Jesus makes it clear that “the first shall be last.” (Mt 19: 30) Advent is a time of self-examination, when, as we do each Sunday, we pause to consider “those things done, or not done”—you know the rest. Despite all the years and centuries of our faith, we find human nature remarkably consistent. This is why Advent is so keen. Advent tells us that in our time, God is about to do “something more.” Such is our time of wonder.

“Wonder” is not my own word. The days between Rosh Hashanah (New Year’s) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), the Jewish “high holy days,” are called the days of awe and wonder. It is also a time to consider the special relationship between God and humanity, sharing much the same significance as Advent. God seeks to restore humanity, and to remove what separates us from God.

Advent holds two themes. It calls us to prepare for the celebration of the Incarnation, the central mystery of our faith. It also calls us to be alert to the imminent return of Christ, to bring all things to their fullness. My joy is that Advent gives us several weeks to get our

minds around this awareness. Weeks in which we are called to prayer, study, and quiet, with the message, “simplify, simplify.” Against which our consumer economy will give its siren call, “spend, spend.” Advent calls us to pay attention to what sustains and endures, as we learn the way of love. It is ours to receive. That is the wonder.

The first wonder is that God came to share our humanity in the infant born at Bethlehem. The second wonder that we are not distant from God, and that, just as Christ came, unsuspected, in Bethlehem, likewise, he will come again. God’s love is undiminished by our human perception of distance and time. As always, there are those who try to urge God’s hand. We saw it with Y2K. Jesus knew it in his day, “If anyone comes to you saying look . . . do not believe it.” (Mark 13: 21)

The earliest heresy, which was immensely popular for two centuries before it fizzled, purported a “secret knowledge”: in Greek, “gnosis”; thus they were called Gnostics.

I offer, that our worship offers all we need to know God’s presence in our lives, now, in part, because of our human limits. And equally, by our worship we will know God in his fullness, now, and at the time of majesty and judgment. Such is the wonder of Advent.

—Fr. Hector+

december@Trinity

Christmastide at Trinity

Please see box at right. This information is also on our Website at www.trinitympt.org.

Saturday, December 3

10:00 a.m.– Holiday Gift Fair at Trinity. The Guild's major event of the year—please help make it a great one.
3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 4

4:00 p.m. A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent, with musical prelude. The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, bishop of Milwaukee, will participate in the program. Note: WERN [88.9 FM] will broadcast A Festival of Lessons and Carols live from King's College, Cambridge, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 24, and again at noon on December 25.

Tuesday, December 13

1:00 p.m. Trinity Guild meeting in Legate Hall.

Friday, December 16

5:00 p.m. Vestry meeting at Jan Johnson's house.

Coming soon . . .

Sunday, January 22

Annual Meeting of the Parish in the undercroft following the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist, with potluck dinner afterwards.

DECEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	USHER	LECTOR/ PRAYER READER	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	ACOLYTE
4	Holland	Whitford	Madigan	S. Hector
11	M. Prouty	M. Prouty	F. Bowden	F. Bowden
18	Southwood	Johnson	F. Bowden	S. Hector
25	F. Bowden	Martin	Whitford	S. Hector

JANUARY ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	USHER	LECTOR/ PRAYER READER	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	ACOLYTE
1	J. & T. Faull	Madigan	Holland	S. Hector
8	Powers	C. Bowers	Madigan	Hunt
15	Holland	Powers	S. Hector	S. Hector
22	M. Prouty	Hunt	F. Bowden	S. Hector
29	Southwood	J-M. Merrell-Beech	Whitford	S. Hector

Birthdays

4 Tara Johnson-Genthe
 6 Barb Phillips (Powell)
 Colton Starr
 14 Carolyn Graf-Mock
 16 Peyton Johnson
 20 Bill Martin
 21 Tom Faull, Sr.
 27 Claire Holland
 28 Barbara Ballard
 31 Robert Beech

Anniversaries

27 Jan and James Johnson



Christmastide
at Trinity

December 24, Saturday
Christmas Eve
8:00 p.m. Procession, blessing of the crèche, and sung Eucharist

December 25, Sunday
Christmas Day
9:30 a.m. Said Eucharist

January 1, Sunday
Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

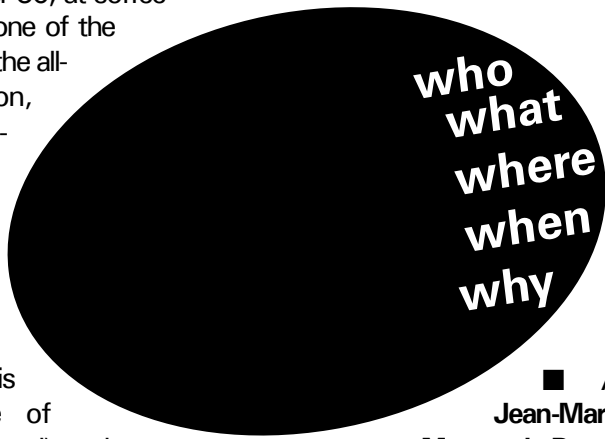
January 6, Friday
Epiphany
9:30 a.m. Said Eucharist, followed by desserts in the undercroft

January 8, Sunday
First Sunday of Epiphany
9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

■ On Sunday, October 30, at coffee hour, Shirley Barnes, one of the founding members of the all-volunteer organization, gave us a brief explanation of work done in and for our area by Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, and an overview of areas in which volunteers are needed. Membership is free (donations are of course gratefully accepted), and all members receive the Grassroots newsletter. If you'd like to be added to the list, please go to www.grassroots.org/become_a_member.

■ Many thanks to all of the elves who did such an excellent job of distributing the rack cards/bookmarks/flyers/posters/table cards for the Holiday Gift Fair and Lessons and Carols.

■ From the program director at Folklore Village (www.folklorevillage.org) comes news of events in December, starting with a barn dance on the 3rd. On December 10, a Family Scandinavian Holiday Crafts day and Swedish St. Lucia program are scheduled, and on December 16, candlelighting is preceded by a concert by the Monroe Swiss Singers. See their Website for details.



■ And **Jean-Margret Merrel-Beech** writes, "We look forward to visiting other churches when we travel, but this past summer has been one of disappointments. We love to visit St Matthias in Minocqua but for our first jaunt up north we couldn't stay in the usual place and were over an hour away. I knew that we were coming up north again, so we visited a nearby Lutheran church and enjoyed their hymn sing Sunday. But the second trip yielded a massive windstorm, cutting off power to much of the North and we didn't have enough gas to drive into Minocqua and we couldn't find a gas station with power. We visited a lovely old Episcopal church in Tomahawk that would make Trinity look well attended. With no Eucharist, an elderly lady reading a sermon sent out by the bishop, and canned music, it was

certainly less satisfying than Trinity. Finally, my third trip I made it to St Matthias, but I had just contracted poison ivy in the woods, and it made it hard to concentrate. But I could still look forward to Christ Church-New Haven (CT) when we would visit our grandchildren. However, soon after we landed on Saturday, Hurricane Irene moved in, shut off the power to most of Connecticut, and cancelled all church services on Sunday. For our fall jaunt we visited Door County where we love the old Episcopal church in the country (Holy Nativity) near Jacksonport. Unfortunately, they had cancelled services the weekend we visited due to their diocesan convention! (Where, by the way, they voted to eliminate their diocese—talk about economic efficiency!) Hopefully, for our last visit of the year, to Grace-Sheboygan this Thanksgiving weekend, we will avoid a major snowstorm and enjoy the service there!"

*We are not human beings
having a spiritual experience.
We are spiritual beings
having a human experience.*

-Teilhard de Chardin

Minutes of the Trinity Guild Meeting *(not yet approved)*

Trinity Guild met on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., at the home of Carolyn Hunt, with four members present—Barbara Hector, Carolyn Hunt, Ann Chapman, and Catherine Whitford.

The meeting opened with the ECW Prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

The Minutes of October 11, 2011, were read. Motion to accept by Carolyn, s/ Ann. Passed.

The Treasurer's Report was handed out. We have a balance on

hand of \$7,646.14. Motion to accept by Ann, s/Carolyn. Passed.

Motion to pay the lawn mowing to Scott Owens by Carolyn, s/Catherine. Passed.

Catherine noted that the rack cards will be valuable now, for this year, and to have them available by August or mid-September in 2012 for the merchants to encourage customers to return in December, especially since it is also a Gallery Night.

Gift Fair plans were discussed. Items

for the Raffle are coming in. Joan will have a sign-up sheet as soon as she returns from Branson, MO.

Tote bags from the Living Grace catalog, @\$99, were discussed. Motion to purchase three dozen by Carolyn, s/Catherine. Passed.

Barbara Hector will host the next meeting, December 13, at 1:00 pm. Motion to adjourn at 1:45 pm. Passed. Carolyn served delicious oatmeal cookies and Sees Candies from California.

*Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Hector, President*

WHAT is it about the weather on the first weekend in December? Two years ago a major storm interfered with our Holiday Gift Fair, and last year's blizzard forced the cancellation of our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent (besides leaving Bishop Miller semi-stranded in Madison on his way to join us).

Undeterred, however, we're once again going ahead with both events (but with all extremities crossed, as a Brit friend says).

The 55th annual Holiday Gift Fair, under the auspices of the Trinity Guild, will fill the undercroft with crafts, confections, gifts, and holiday decor on December 3 from 10:00

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As the Guild's major event of the

year, the Fair raises a considerable portion of the Guild's annual pledge to the parish.

And on December 4 at 4:00 p.m., another venerable holiday tradition at Trinity, our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent, will unfold, with the Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, bishop of Milwaukee, joining us for the celebration.

"We're especially honored that our bishop will be participating in this year's service," said Senior Warden **Jan Johnson**, "and we trust he won't get stuck overnight in Madison again. We're looking forward to welcoming him back to our parish."

The 2009 service was standing-room-only, and was attended by many people from outside the

Weather (and the good Lord) willing, on December 3 and 4 we'll add to our long holiday tradition with two more gala celebrations

Trinity parish family. "This really is Trinity's Christmas gift to the entire area," Jan said. "Our hope is that by including in the program many people who are not our parishioners, we will encourage people of other faiths to join

us in celebrating the Christmas story."

The service will include seven lessons from the Old and New Testaments that will be read by a diverse group of people from our community: **Isabel Bowers**, a representative of the young people of the parish; **Stephanie Mohlman**, a representative of the business community; **Tom Kelly**, a representative of the arts community; the Rev. **Mary Ann Conklin**, a representative of the religious community; and **Nancy Graber**, a representative of the community's service organizations. **Jan Johnson**, as Senior Warden, and **Bish-**

op Miller will also be readers.

Adding to the beauty of the service will be a number of area musicians, among them **Bob Beech**, **Fred Bowden**, **Monica Dunn**, **Elizabeth Myers**, **Rollande Krandall**, **Mike Mitchell**, **Hannah Owens**, **Dorothy** and **Mark Prouty**, **Mary Spurgeon**, **Luke Tredinnick**, and members of the Trinity choir.

The procession will include **Fred Bowden**, crucifer; **Joan** and **Tom Faull**, torchbearers; and **Richmond Powers**, banner carrier.

Kate Martin lined up the readers and will decorate the church windows with greens, **Dorothy Prouty** recruited the musicians, **Mark Prouty** will usher, **Susanne Southwood** designed the program and promotional materials (including the programs, which were printed at a special rate for us by **Deb Pickett** of **Southwest Graphics** in **Darlington**), a number of Trinity elves kindly planted window posters, restaurant table cards and bookmarks around town, and **Fr. Hector** filled in the blanks.

"As always, putting this program together is a collaborative effort, with a great many people contributing their time and talents," Jan said. "We hope the church will be filled to overflowing, as it was two years ago, and that all our families and friends will celebrate with us at 4:00 on December 4."

Holiday Gift Fair

A festival of Lessons and Carols

In defense of Santa

by Susanne Southwood



YEARS AGO, when my daughter Kate was very small, her father and I agonized over whether or not to tell her about Santa. After all, we reasoned, telling her the Santa story is really the same thing as lying to her. Isn't it? Turns out, it isn't.

Fortunately for us all, both of Kate's grandmothers weighed in and disabused us of our misguided notions in no uncertain terms. I don't remember what their arguments were, but they must have been persuasive because the matter was dropped and Santa visited us every year.

I think about that time now, at Christmas, when we lament the commercialism of the season and the endless Santas, street-corner and otherwise, that far outnumber the crèches on public view. And I think I finally understand why our laments may be misplaced, why the Santa story isn't a lie, and why it matters.

Michael Verde, a gifted lecturer whom I have heard speak many times, says that literature can make some things survivable.

Perhaps Santa Claus fulfills that role. Just because something isn't real doesn't mean it isn't true. Santa Claus gives us an image of bounty, goodness, warmth, and joy that we carry with us forever, an image that vivifies our lives and that sometimes, perhaps, even makes life livable.

I've come to believe that in teaching about Santa Claus, we're using metaphor to teach children a non-literal way to encounter and understand fundamental truths. Santa Claus gives kids—and adults—a life-saving, life-enhancing way out of the daily slog by holding up before our eyes a vision of a safer, more loving world. Even more important, his story gives us a way to

engage that world.

To a very considerable extent, our expectations shape our experience. If we expect people to cheat us, we'll be cheated. If we expect to be happy, we'll be happy. If we are loved, we'll learn how to love. That's one of the reasons we work so hard to give children a good, happy childhood—so they won't be poisoned for life.

Verde says that "make-believe can end in belief-making," and that "in myth, the 'old man' comes to give us guidance when the way isn't clear," which can certainly apply to Santa. Even more simply: "Myths tell us who and what we are."

Someone on a TV show I've now forgotten once said, "myth participates in truth, and all civilizations use myth to explain their relationship to God—hence the similarities in ancient myths."

Myth participates in truth—that's the key. By telling children the myth of Santa and making it such a huge part of the most important festival of the year, we are acknowledging that although Santa isn't real, he's definitely true, and that we admire everything he is, everything he stands for: Justice: were you good or bad? Inclusiveness: he goes to every house in the world. Warmth. Kindliness. Jollity. Good cheer.

And, going back to the original St. Nicholas story, compassion for the downtrodden, the poor, and the needy. If that doesn't stand at the heart of the Christmas message—and the Christian message—what does?

So jingle those bells, Santa. Fill all our stockings, rise up our chimneys, and dash away over the rooftops. But come back next year, please, because we need you.

Happy Christmas to all, and to all, a good night. ❖

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

Friday, October 21, 2011 (approved at the November 18, 2011 meeting)

The meeting of the Trinity parish Vestry was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Fr. Hector and began with prayer. Members present: Fr. Hector; Jan Johnson, Senior Warden; Claire Holland, Mark Prouty, Susanne Southwood, Clerk. Absent: Fred Bowden, Jr. Warden; Joan Faull. Sara Hector, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report and then left. Also present: Skip Lee, our investment advisor from Pillar Wealth Management, and Brian Cleven, CEO of Pillar.

Minutes

Motion by Claire to accept the minutes of the September 30, 2011 meeting, amended to state that Claire, Joan, and Fred constitute the committee on churchyard policies; second by Mark; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

As of the 10/20/2011 Treasurer's Report, we had YTD income of \$39,140.92 (budget: \$37,220), expenses of \$35,708.35 (budget: \$39,206.67), and checkbook balance of \$11,616.11. Sara explained the points in the July report that we had asked for clarification on, and also pointed out that we are now paying .375%/quarter (1.5%/year) on the total value of our investments with Pillar instead of a fee per transaction. This is less than we were paying before. After discussion, Jan made a motion to approve the July and October Treasurer's Reports; second by Mark; motion passed. (Note: There was no report in August or September.)

Investments Report

Skip Lee reported that our investments are down only .16% YTD, vs. the

5.52% losses sustained YTD by the market as a whole. He said we are now invested at 65% in fixed income [bonds], of which 45% is "parked" in short-term bonds to preserve capital. The balance—35%—is in equities (stocks).

Jan said that overall she was pleased with our investment results, and confident that Pillar Wealth Management has done the job we asked them to do. She added that we are trying to add \$10,000/year to our endowment so that the investment income it earns would fund one pledge. Next year, she said, we will have relocation expenses estimated at \$10,000 when we call a new priest. Skip said we shouldn't pull more than 3% per cycle out of the market so that we can continue to maintain purchasing power. This is consistent with our need to realize about \$8,000 a year in investment income to cover our expenses. *Motion by Claire, second by Jan, to leave things as they are and reevaluate our investment decisions in six months unless Treasury bonds exceed 10%, in which case we will discuss our options with Skip. Motion passed.*

Old Business

1. Churchyard policy. The committee has not completed its recommendations and hopes to present them at the December meeting.

2. Gift. We have not yet sent a letter of thanks to Edgar and Jean Temby, former parishioners, who gave Trinity 123 shares of MGE Energy, Inc., with a market value of \$5,111,88 as of July 22, 2011. Fr. Hector said he would bring the letter to church on Sunday for Vestry members' to sign;

Claire and Susanne will be out of town and will have to sign later.

New Business

1. Visitors' Guide ad. Susanne presented a 1/8-page advertisement for our consideration; it would cost \$150. Several suggestions were made for revisions; Susanne said she would do samples and email them to Vestry members for their comments. The ad touches on our tradition and heritage, which are among our key strengths.

Motion by Mark to place an ad, second by Jan. Motion passed.

2. Annual Meeting. *Motion by Jan for the meeting to take place after the Eucharist on January 22, second by Susanne. Motion passed.*

3. Nominations. As their terms are ending in 2011, we agreed that Jan and Joan would present names in nomination for their own successors (Joan as Vestry member, Jan as Senior Warden).

4. Endowment. After discussion, Claire made a motion for us to transfer \$5,000 from our checking account to our endowment fund, and invest it in the Combined Fund; second by Susanne; motion passed.

Upcoming

1. The next Vestry meeting will be at Jan Johnson's house November 18.
1. December 3, Holiday Gift Fair.
2. December 4, Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Claire, second by Jan. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Susanne Southwood, Clerk.
All motions passed unanimously
unless otherwise noted.*

Holy women, holy men

Approved at the 2009 General Assembly, the following new commemorations on the Episcopal Church calendar have been added for December.

December 1—Charles de Foucauld, Hermit and Martyr in the Sahara, 1916. Born in France in 1858, as a young man he lost his faith. After encountering devout Muslims on his travels, he began his own faith journey, entering the Cistercian order (Trappists) and becoming the inspiration behind the founding of new religious communities for men and women.

December 3—Francis Xavier, Missionary to the Far East, 1552. One of the great missionaries of the church, he met Ignatius Loyola in Paris while studying for a master's degree; together they founded what would later become the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

December 8—Richard Baxter, Pastor and Writer, 1691. A moderate, he stood against the excessive destructiveness of Cromwell's legions. He wrote the words to the hymn "*Ye holy angels bright*" (No. 625).

December 10—Karl Barth, Pastor and Theologian, 1968. One of the great thinkers of the 20th century, Pope Pius XII regarded Barth as the most important theologian since Thomas Aquinas, a testament to his stature among both Protestants and Catholics.

December 10—Thomas Merton, Contemplative and Writer, 1968. One of the most influential Catholic writers of the 20th century, his writings cover a range of issues from social justice to war, violence, and the arms race.

December 13—Lucy (Lucia), Martyr at Syracuse, 304. Her name means "light"; particularly in Scandinavian countries, St. Lucy's Day has long been a festival of light.

December 14—Juan de la Cruz (John of the Cross), Mystic, 1591. Unknown outside the Discalced Carmelites for nearly 300 years after his death, more recently he has been discovered by scholars of Christian spirituality. His writings give us the phrase, "the dark night of the soul."

December 15—John Horden, Bishop and Missionary in Canada, 1892. An accomplished linguist, he worked with native peoples of Canada and was the first bishop of the Diocese of Moosonee.

December 15—Robert McDonald, Priest, 1913. Priest, missionary, and archdeacon, he served among the First Nations peoples of Canada.

December 16—Ralph Adams Cram, 1942, and **Richard Upjohn**, 1878, Architects, and **John LaFarge**, Artist, 1910. Cram's and Upjohn's influence on the design and decoration of Episcopal churches in the late 19th and early 20th centuries is unequalled. LaFarge is most often remembered for murals in Trinity Church, Boston.

December 17—William Lloyd Garrison, 1879, and **Maria Stewart**, 1879, Prophetic Witnesses. Garrison's antislavery newspaper, *The Liberator*, was the leading voice in

the abolitionist movement; he published essays by free and slave blacks and whites, including those by Stewart, a freeborn African-American woman.

December 19—Lillian Trasher, Missionary in Egypt, 1961. During a lifetime caring for orphaned children, she became known as the "Mother of the Nile."

December 22—Henry Budd, Priest, 1875. The first person of Native American ancestry ordained in the Anglican tradition in North America, he is remembered for his service among the Cree in Western Canada.

December 22—Charlotte Diggs (Lottie) Moon, Missionary in China, 1912. After earning one of the first graduate degrees awarded to a woman in the South, she served as a Baptist missionary in China and was instrumental in that denomination's burgeoning missionary movement.

December 31—Samuel Ajayi Crowther, Bishop in the Niger Territories, 1891. The first African bishop in Nigeria for "the countries of Western Africa beyond the limits of the Queen's domains," he helped translate the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer into a number of West African languages. In encounters with Muslims he was known as a humble, patient listener and a non-polemical partner in dialogue.

—*Holy Women, Holy Men*
Church Publishing, New York, 2010

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

Friday, November 18, 2011 (not yet approved)

1. The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Johnson home by Fr. Hector and opened with prayer. Members present: Fr. Hector; Jan Johnson, Senior Warden; Claire Holland; and Mark Prouty. Absent: Fred Bowden; Joan Faulk; and Susanne Southwood, Clerk. Fr. Hector noted that the garland has been hung on the rectory and church.

2. The Minutes of October 21, 2011, were presented. Motion to approve by Claire, s/Jan. Passed.

3. Sara presented the Treasurer's Report, in a new format, showing total receipts of \$43,988.98, disbursements of 40,432.86, and a balance of \$11,739.67. She said that to date eighteen pledges have been received, three more than last year, six have increased, one decreased. Total pledged amount, \$32,784. Motion to approve by Mark, s/Claire. Passed.

4. Claire has approved the Churchyard policy prepared by Fred and Fr. Hector. It goes to Joan.

5. Under nominations, Jan reported that Claire has agreed to be nominated for Senior Warden at the Annual Meeting.

6. Discussion followed on business to bring before the Annual Meeting, specifically, the formation of a Search Committee for a new priest with a balance of viewpoints and skills, and to lay out

the steps of the process. Bishop Miller has said that it need not be the full (lengthy) process. Claire offered the material she has on building consensus. Jan will contact Bishop Miller for search specifics.

7. Motion by Claire, s/Jan: *Whereas the Rev. J. R. Hector is employed as an ordained minister by Trinity Episcopal Church, Mineral Point, WI, and housing is provided for his use, \$3,000 of his compensation shall be considered as a "parsonage allowance" within the meaning of that term in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.* Passed.

8. Fr. Hector noted that we will use Rite One for Advent, and Rite Two for Christmas. Dorothy and the Point Brass will be playing for Christmas Eve.

9. Motion by Jan, s/Claire to purchase the sign prohibiting concealed carry of weapons in the church which was offered by Canon Pfaff. Passed. Fr. Hector will post this in the tower entrance and the kitchen.

10. The Budget for 2012 will be on the agenda for December's meeting. There was discussion and agreement on the proposed "Outreach" item, that the need is to promote avenues of search, education, dialogue, and support rather than contribute, as a parish, to any specific cause.

11. Mark noted that Fr. Hector has

been here five years without any change in his stipend and offered that we could consider a 3% increase for the 2012 budget.

12. Jan moved a Resolution to write a History of Trinity Church, s/ Mark. Passed. At the Annual Meeting we will begin the effort of gathering memories. Claire offered to contact those she knows. Richmond Powers is a likely "go-to person," and Kate Martin could be the author.

13. Motion by Mark, s/Jan, that Trinity Church affirms the "Diocesan Policy on Sexual, Misconduct Prevention." Passed. We will learn more at the Vestry workshop on February 25th.

14. The calendar was reviewed.

15. Motion to adjourn by Jan, s/Mark. Passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Fr. J. R. Hector
Clerk pro tem*

*Oh, Lord,
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be your
children,
and Christmas evening bring
us to our beds with grateful
thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus'
sake. Amen.*

—Robert Louis Stevenson

How do we invest the wealth we've been given?

A sermon on stewardship, preached by our Senior Warden on October 23

TODAY IS Stewardship Sunday. Earlier this week we each received a letter and a pledge card from Fr. Hector asking us to commit to supporting the work of the church for the next twelve months. His message spoke of our faith journey and of finding joy and a fuller spiritual life through participation in the community of faithful people. Pledging financial support to that community is part of our participation.

The letter set me to thinking. Looking at my pledge card, I thought about how many hours of work each week were needed to earn the money for my pledge. I am ashamed to admit that it takes me only one hour a week to earn my pledge. If I were to tithe, the number would be only four hours. And yet I don't increase my pledge. Why? Because like so many others I live on a narrow margin and fear poverty. So long as I measure my wealth in dollars I feel poor and afraid.

It is when I remember the other gifts I have been given that I understand how wealthy I am and how much more of the Lord's work I can do. I can give so much more than an hour a week in a dozen different ways. So can you. I am asking each of you to join me now to doubling, tripling or even quadrupling your commitment to the work of the church.

We recently heard the parable of the two servants who were each given a portion of the master's wealth with the instruction to return it to the master when he came home from his travels. One servant, fearing possible loss of the money and the anger of his master, placed the money in a safe place. The other went into the community and risked investing the money with the hope of increasing the master's wealth. We remember

that it was the servant who put the master's wealth to work who earned the master's praise.

We are also servants of a master who has given us great wealth. We have been given life, years of strength and vigor, loving families, a community that educated us, provided us with opportunities to make a living, safety for our children, friends and neighbors who helped when we were stricken, comforted us when we grieved. We have been given the capacity for love, for kindness, tolerance, generosity and forgiveness. We are capable of exercising responsibility, discipline, diligence and discernment. All of these treasures are desperately needed everywhere we look.

WE HAVE also been given a choice. We can bury our treasure within these walls. We can come to church on Sunday, pay our diocesan assessment, send a \$100 here or there, and leave it up to Fr. Hector and United Thank Offering to respond to the needy. Or we each can use our personal treasure to do the church's work in the world.

Do you remember the commandments to love one another, to live in peace and charity with our neighbor, to feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit prisoners, care for widows and orphans? These things are the Lord's work and the work of the church. We are individually and collectively intelligent, compassionate people who should be able to see the souls all around us crying out for the love of God. Who is better able to answer their cries if not you and I?

The parable tells us to do the Lord's work in the world with what we have been given and to have faith that our work will bear fruit.

Every once in a while Dorothy sends me a card that invariably lifts my spirits and reassures me that I am safe among loving friends. Claire volunteers at the Free Clinic, Fred will do whatever is asked of him with a smile on his face. Tom has flipped a million pancakes to support community groups. Carolyn was there for Pat Byington and Walter Schafer. I hired a young man trying to support a family on odd jobs for a task that could have been done quicker, better, and cheaper by a professional.

Every one of us has the opportunity to be kind to others, to speak well of others, to be charitable in our judgments of others, to put our money where our mouth is. We can multiply our pledge to the Lord's work many times over by thinking every day of what it means to love one another and to live in love and charity with our neighbors. And then acting like we believe it.

Trinity is in good financial shape. In spite of declining numbers, with prudent management we are able to pay our bills and save for the future. We have the means to carry on for many years to come. It is time for us to recognize that money is now the least of our concerns. It is time to move on to a serious dialog about investing the much greater wealth we have been given.

We can't know what challenges tomorrow may bring, but we can be sure that so long as every one of us works faithfully to pour out on others the great gifts we have been given, the kingdom of God and the church will thrive.

Have faith, love one another, live in peace and charity with your neighbors and all will be well.

—Jan Johnson

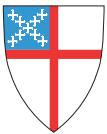
TRINITY CHURCH

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



*And the Light shineth
in the darkness . . .*



Trinity Church

The Episcopal Parish in Iowa County, Wisconsin

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

WARDENS

Jan Johnson, *Senior Warden* (2011)
Fred Bowden, *Junior Warden* (2011)

VESTRY

Joan Faull (2011)
Claire Holland (2013)
Mark Prouty (2012)
Susanne Southwood, *Clerk* (2012)

AND ALSO

Barbara Hector, *Trinity Guild President*
Le Hector, *Altar Guild President*
Sara Hector, *Treasurer*
Dorothy Prouty, *Music Director*

Deadline for *High Notes'* news is the 20th of the month preceding publication. Please send your news to Susanne Southwood, deltadirect@earthlink.net. Back issues of *High Notes* are available as pdfs on our website at www.trinitympt.org.

Trinity to debut in Visitors' Guide

The ad at right—1/8 of a page—will appear in the 2012 Mineral Point Visitors' Guide and marks the first time an ad for Trinity has appeared in that publication. The Guide is produced by the Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce.

Besides giving service information and our street and Web addresses, the ad briefly touches on our history, which, along with our Anglican tradition, is among our greatest strengths.

At its October meeting, the Vestry agreed that we hope

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

403 High St. • Mineral Point, WI
Sunday Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
(9:00 a.m. June 1–Sept. 1)

Trinity Episcopal Parish was organized in 1839, and the church, considered a perfect gem of Gothic revival architecture and reputed to be the oldest church in Wisconsin in continuous use, was built in 1845.

www.trinitympt.org

the historic information will pique visitors' interest and perhaps encourage them to join us for the Eucharist.

Approximately 33,000 copies of the Guide will be printed for 2012. ❖