

january 2012

High Notes

News for and about members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church, Mineral Point, WI
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"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus . . . "
(Luke 2: 1)

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, should I stop reading, I am certain that those present, without much hesitation, could complete this particular passage word for word. Early on, long before the writer of the third gospel put pen on parchment, there was a community who would gather together to share their personal experiences with Jesus, to share "their story," as I considered last month.

Perhaps various individuals would be known for a specific event or parable or experience. Like as not the others present, who had heard these accounts often before, could willingly step right in with the particulars. Or equally, they would share what they were doing on such and such occasion, such as the census under Augustus (much as we do on December 6, or 9/11) and how their lives had changed.

The clearest lesson is that these stories were retold many, many, many times before they were written down. Equally, I feel that the accounts we have are outlines, the common framework known and accepted by all, which the teller would use as the basis for personal sharing. This is why I say that scripture is compact. It only takes a little more than an hour to read all four gospels. What we have is just the beginning, as we move from

the text which we all know, into daily life lead by the faith raised by that text, and by our experience of God's presence.

Luke's account is a perfect example of how the text speaks to our experience of God's presence. Those who say that "the Bible says what the Bible says," do well to consider how Luke is telling us that God moved the entire Roman Empire in order to get Joseph and Mary to travel the 50 miles (walking) from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Equally, though the townsfolk could have heard the angels, it was the shepherds, those who followed the herds, as had Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and King David as a youngster, who are alert to the presence of angels, and who respond, "Let us make haste . . ." (which in the NRSV reads "Let us go now . . ."). As if we needed instructions, we are told that "Mary treasured all these words, and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:16)

Such is the impetus for each of us, as we hear this familiar narrative to realize that while the birth of Jesus has a place in history, and a specific town, the birth of Jesus is something we know by faith, and in our worship, we can share with the shepherds, across the years and miles, in wonder and purpose as we gather.

We gather because we know the story. We gather because it is our story.

—Fr. Hector+

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Sunday, January 1—Happy new year!

9:30 a.m. Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. This is also our first-quarter Endowment Sunday—cash (or checks that you so designate) in today's collection will be added to Trinity's Endowment Fund. As is usual on the first Sunday of the month, all coffee hour donations this morning will go to the Mineral Point Care Center for their "Dimes for Bingo" program.

Friday, January 6

9:30 a.m. Feast of the Epiphany. Said Eucharist. Coffee and Twelfth Night cake in the undercroft afterwards.

Sunday, January 22

9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist, followed by Trinity's **Annual Parish Meeting** and potluck in the undercroft afterwards. It's the time when we review our work in 2011 and make our plans for 2012. It's also where we receive reports for all areas of church activities and review the results of our pledge drive, our operating budget, and our financial statement, and elect members for Vestry, Convocation, and Diocesan Convention positions.

Please see agenda posted in the undercroft. An organizational meeting of the Vestry will be held after the Annual Meeting.

Another successful Gift Fair!

Thanks to all the hard workers and contributors, the Guild's 55th annual Holiday Gift Fair scored yet another success. This is the Guild's major fundraiser of the year, and, after expenses, it netted \$4,117.83, significantly more than last year's \$2,943.90. The Guild pledges \$2,500 to the church annually, and the Gift Fair raises most of that amount. Here's where the money came from:

\$ 784.00	Meals/sale of extra food items
619.00	Raffle tickets
438.50	Christmas table
844.75	Baked goods table
590.60	Sewing/crafts table
357.25	Candy table
517.40	This 'n that table
<u>1,050.00</u>	Gifts
\$ 5,201.00	Total
<u>- 983.87</u>	Expenses
\$ 4,117.83	Grand Total

Birthdays

1	Garrett Faull
6	Sara Hector
13	Doris Edwards
20	Jeremy Meek
31	Bishop Roger White

GRACE

strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness...

Sometimes at that moment

a wave of light breaks

into our darkness,

and it is as though

a voice were saying:

"You are accepted.

You are accepted,

accepted by that which is

greater than you,

and the name of which

you do not know.

Do not ask for the name

now; perhaps you will

find it later.

Do not try to do

anything now;

perhaps later you

will do much.

Do not seek for anything;

do not perform anything;

do not intend anything.

Simply accept the fact

that you are accepted!"

If that happens to us

we experience grace.

After that experience

we may not be better

than before, and we may not

believe more than before.

But everything is

transformed.

—Paul Tillich

Minutes of the December Vestry Meeting *(not yet approved)*

December 16, 2011 *(not yet approved)*

1. The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 5:00 pm at the Johnson home by Fr. Hector and opened with prayer. Members present: Fr. Hector; Jan Johnson, Senior Warden; Claire Holland; Joan Faull; and Mark Prouty. Absent: Fred Bowden, and Susanne Southwood. Fr. Hector noted that his granddaughter, Reece Eleya Hector, will be baptized on Sunday.

2. The Minutes of November 18, 2011, were presented. Jan noted that Kate Martin will be a resource for the parish history. Motion to approve by Mark, s/Jan. Passed.

3. Sara presented the Treasurer's Report, in a new format, showing total receipts of \$46,810.95, disbursements of 41,506.67, and a balance of \$13,487.82. On Investments, American Growth Fund has had a small decrease. Motion to approve by Claire, s/Jan. Passed.

4. The Church Yard policy is still under

review.

5. Susanne Southwood has resigned her seat on the Vestry due to health. Fr. Hector had a letter of appreciation prepared which was signed by those present.

6. Jan noted that she and Joan are the Nominating Committee, and will be contacting candidates for the Vestry seats before the Annual Meeting.

7. Sara prepared a proposed budget for 2012 showing anticipated receipts of \$49,854.00, and anticipated expenses of \$45,650.00. Jan proposed to include \$3,000 for Search Expenses, and \$1,200 for Outreach, raising our expenses to \$49,850. Discussion followed. Motion to accept the proposed budget for 2012, with these additions, by Jan, s/Joan. Passed.

8. Jan noted that the incoming Vestry will have the task of defining the purpose of the "outreach" item for Trinity.

9. The dishwasher in the Rectory, which Fr. Edwards donated, sprang a leak on Wednesday. Motion by Mark, s/Claire,

for Fr. Hector to purchase a new dishwasher (\$600). Passed. Discussion followed on Whirlpool products, and the support we receive from Bob's Electric.

10. The calendar was reviewed.

11. Discussion followed on how many members should be on the Search Committee, and how to allow for representation of parish constituencies. Possible individuals were considered. It was agreed that a committee of four would be adequate. Jan has been in contact with Canon Pfaff, and has been told that Ms. Peggy (Worzalla) Bean is now directing clergy placement. We will select the members of the Search Committee at the Annual Meeting.

12. The church ceiling over the font shows water damage. Fr. Hector will contact Brian Steffes who rebuilt the roof and shingled it in 2002.

13. Motion, at 5:40 pm, to adjourn by Jan, s/Joan. Passed.

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

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

Trinity Guild met on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 1:00 pm, at Legate Hall, with five members present—Barbara Hector, Carolyn Hunt, Ann Chapman, Le Hector, Joan Faull, and Fr. Hector.

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

The Minutes of November 8, 2011, were read. Motion to accept by Le, s/ Ann. Passed.

The Treasurer's Report was handed out. To date, the Gift Fair has received \$4,746.50, with expenses of \$908.30. We have a balance on hand of \$10,996.59. Motion to accept by Carolyn, s/Le. Passed.

Motion by Carolyn to purchase a ham for the Annual Meeting, s/Joan who will make the pur-

chase. Passed.

It was agreed that we will set the Rummage Sale dates at the next meeting. The city-wide yard sale dates will be April 14 and August 18.

Joan proposed that we could make cushions for the Legate Hall chairs that match, rather than our present rummage sale collection. This was accepted. We will look for fabrics and a suitable pattern to make 40 cushions.

It was agreed that the January and February meetings will be set as we get closer, depending on the weather.

Motion by Carolyn, s/Joan, to adjourn at 1:45 pm. Passed.

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

A Native American grandfather was talking to his grandson about how he felt. He said, "I feel as if I have two wolves fighting in my heart. One wolf is the vengeful, angry, violent one. The other wolf is the loving, compassionate one." The grandson asked him, "Which wolf will win the fight in your heart?" The grandfather answered, "The one I feed."

*—Thanks to Michael Butler
and Jan Johnson*

TRINITY CHURCH

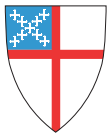
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ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED



**We have seen his star in
the East and have come
to worship him.**

Matthew 2: 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* (2011)
Fred Bowden, *Junior Warden* (2011)

VESTRY

Joan Faull (2011)
Claire Holland (2013)
Mark Prouty (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 at [delta
direct@earthlink.net](mailto:delta
direct@earthlink.net). Back issues of *High Notes*
are available as pdfs on our website at
www.trinitympt.org.



Time to update our Directory!

During January, our Members and Friends directory will be posted in the undercroft. Please check your household's listing and make any necessary changes on that copy, or email your changes by January 29 to Susanne Southwood at deltadirect@earthlink.net. The new directory will be published in February.

An open letter to my friends at Trinity . . .

As I think most of you know, I've been hit with some fairly devastating health news in the last few weeks. By the grace of God, however, things don't look quite as devastating as they did originally, and I hope I will be able to continue among you for some time to come. Meantime, however, your love, prayers, and concern for Tom and me have been—and continue to be—a source of great comfort, and we are deeply grateful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

—Susanne Southwood