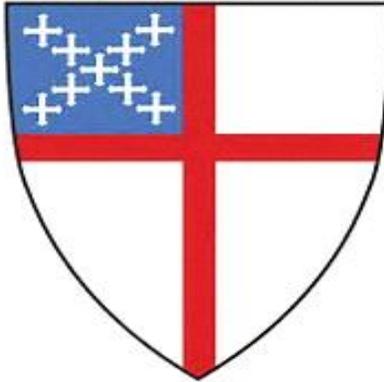


TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 2018

The Episcopal Church



WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME!

The mission of Trinity Church is to unite all persons with God and with one another in Jesus Christ. Trinity is an inclusive Episcopal Community that lives out its Baptismal Covenant by welcoming people in all their diversity, and by supporting spiritual growth through traditional worship, social responsibility, and proclaiming the Gospel.

Trinity Episcopal of Mineral Point

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Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565

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The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church: The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry

The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee: The Right Reverend Steven A. Miller

Rector: The Reverend Brian E. Backstrand

Music Minister: Dorothy Prouty

Vestry: Brent Bowers, Annie Chapman, Kathy Madigan and Mark Prouty

Senior Warden: Beth McGehee,

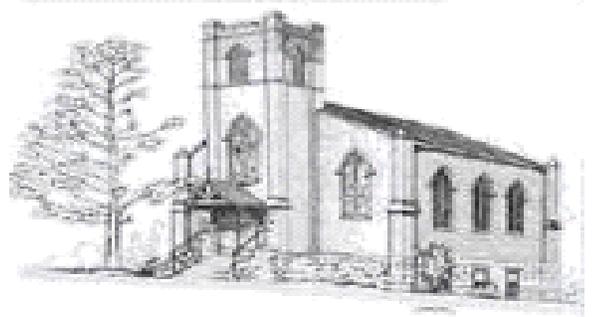
Junior Warden: Tom Faull

Clerk of the Parish: Mark Prouty

Treasurer: Janean Faull

Faith Community Nurse: Susan Schlager

We pray for our Trinity Church of Mineral Point. May Thy gracious presence enable us to be open and receptive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Bless all who come here for worship and fellowship; please Lord, strengthen us in our journey and mission.



Come and join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Please remember prayers for Joan, Colby, Conner, Sue, Betty, Quinn, Isabella, Kat, Jenny, Kurt, Jocelyn, Andrea, David+, Richmond, Paul, Dottie, Bonnie, Ruthie, Patrick J., Patrick F., Jill, Derek, Brandy, Jessica, John, Sharon, Kenny, Wes, Ruth, Clemmie, and Anna J.

DECEMBER MUSING

One of the great enveloping realities of December in the Northern Hemisphere is the narrowing of daylight-- apparent even on sunny days and much more on cloudy ones. Daylight wanes in December even as temperatures drop and the calendar inexorably moves towards the ending of this, the final month of the year.

It is in this setting that we wait, once more, for Emmanuel to be born; for light to shine in the darkness. Waiting with expectation in a dark time is difficult. And it is not only the physical darkness that shrouds us. At times it seems that the dark surround of the natural world invites us into our own darkness, our shadow side. Carl Jung formally introduced the term:

Unfortunately there can be no doubt that man is, on the whole, less good than he imagines himself or wants to be. Everyone carries a shadow, and the less it is embodied in the individual's conscious life, the blacker and denser it is. At all counts, it forms an unconscious snag, thwarting our most well-meant intentions.

It is this snag -- powerful enough to thwart us-- that brings me to a question: What do we expect of Christmas? Or perhaps more insistently: Who do we expect Jesus to be and us to be in return? To be sure, we expect the freshness of new life, the innocent and vulnerable presence of a baby. We expect angels and shepherds and eventually travelers from afar. We expect gifts and gift giving, carols.

But do we expect change? Do we expect the intrusion of a God-with-us powerful enough to touch our dark, shadowy interior places? What would happen if Jesus was born anew quietly inside?

In his popular book, *Living Buddha, Living Christ* Thich Nhat Hanh has some interesting things to say both about Buddhism and Christianity, Buddha and Jesus. Here is one of his perceptions:

For Christians, the way to make the Holy Spirit truly present in the world is to practice thoroughly what Jesus lived and taught. It is not only true that Christians need Jesus, but Jesus needs Christians also for His energy to continue in this world.

As we prepare ourselves to come to the manger once more, perhaps this time we might consider bringing not only our joy at His coming but also our awareness of our own darkness. Perhaps we might see, in the vulnerability of the Child, His own great need to have us renew our own commitment to follow Him, out of the darkness and into the light.

--- Fr. Brian

Lay Ministry Schedule

DECEMBER	USHERS	LECTORS PRAYER READER	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
2	Kathy Madigan	Christena & Isabel Bowers	Pat Cole	Beth McGehee	Claire Holland Kathy Madigan
9	Kris Erdmann	Carolyn Hunt	Kathy Madigan	Jill Underly	Carolyn Hunt Joan Faull
16	T&J Faull	Pat Cole	Claire Holland	Isabel Bowers Nick Bowers	Ann Chapman Beth McGehee
23	Claire Holland	Kathy Madigan	Kris Erdmann	Joan Faull	Jane Stenson Marilee Backstrand
30	Mark Prouty	Kris Erdmann	Pat Cole	Beth McGehee	Claire Holland Kathy Madigan



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have any information that you would like included in the newsletter or the weekly email, be sure to give the information both to Terrie at trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com so it will be included in the Sunday bulletin, and to me at patcole2009@gmail.com for the weekly email.

Fr. Brian's schedule for December includes the following days off: Thursday December 27 through Wednesday, January 2.

DATE TO REMEMBER

Saturday, December 8th: The Care Creation Committee will **preview George Howe's film, "Decoding The Driftless"**, a local environmental film at 2:30 pm in Legate Hall. The film (approximately 1 hour) was recently shown at the Opera House during the Driftless Film Festival. We are thinking of partnering with the film-maker and taking the film to local schools. Come, enjoy the film, and help us decide how to proceed.

Sunday, December 9th: **Lessons and Carols for Christmastide** at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, December 16th: **The Rt. Rev. Steve A. Miller, Bishop** of the Diocese of Milwaukee, will visit Trinity Mineral Point.

Monday, December 24th: **Feast of the Nativity** at 8:00 pm.

Tuesday, December 25th: **Christmas Day** Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am.

Choir Rehearsals continue at Trinity, Mineral Point! We would love to have more singers. Please contact Dorothy Prouty if interested 920-723-5889.

Our Stewardship Drive continues. At our combined service on November 4th, we celebrated All Saints and our youth group presented a drama dealing with saints and stewardship, pointing out the ways in which the saints of the church gave of themselves. And, Pat Cole shared with us why faith and the church are important to her. You should have already received a letter from Trinity asking you to prayerfully consider your financial support of our church. We are asking that everyone complete the pledge card and return in on or before Sunday December 9th. **Next Sunday is Pledge Sunday** for Trinity Church as we look ahead to 2019.



Some Recommended Reading from the Diocese of Milwaukee as part of the Diocesan commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice:

Books:

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Colorblind by Time Wise

Strength for the Struggle by Joseph Ellwanger

White Rage by Carol Anderson

Anxious to Talk About It by Carolyn Heisel

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

A More Beautiful and Terrible History by Jeanne Theoharis

So You Want to Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo

Tears We Cannot Stop by Michael Dyson

America's Original Sin by Jim Wallis

Children's Books:

Ordinary People Change the World series by Brad Meltzer featuring books about Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and more

Big Hair, Don't Care by Crystal Swain-Bates

Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed/Stasia Burrington

Early Sunday Morning by Denene Millner/Vanessa Brantley-Newton

This is the Rope by Jacqueline Woodson/James Ransome

Tis' The Season Of Giving

The holiday season is fast approaching and Upland Hills Nursing and Rehab in Dodgeville is asking for your help with Christmas items for residents. The resident Christmas party will be Friday, December 21st, so items can be dropped off at their front desk by or before the 17th of December. Please do not wrap items as we specify exactly who to give them to. Thank you so very much! Items needed ... lotion, bar soap, perfume/cologne/make-up, shampoo/conditioner, nail polish, Kleenex, jewelry, deodorant, blankets, slippers (large sizes), socks, toothpaste/brushed, hair brushes, combs/picks, candy (regular and sugar free), puzzles (500 pc), stamps, knick-knacks, pajamas, small battery powered razors for women and undershirts (men's and women's large-xlarge).



December BIRTHDAYS

03-Tom Poad
04-Tara Johnson Genthe
06-Jean Temby
21-Tom Faull
27-Claire Holland
28-Barbara Ballard
28-Alexis Faull
31-Robert Beech



December ANNIVERSARIES

09-Ed & Jean Temby
27-James & Jan Johnson

**** If you have a birthday or anniversary you would like to add, please contact Terrie at the church office.**

An article pertinent to our responsibility for Stewardship of Creation:

On November 27, 2018 the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018** was introduced in Congress by two Republicans and three Democrats. This historic bipartisan bill would enact carbon fee and dividend into law when passed, and is the result of bi-partisan hard work and support over many years.

Simultaneously, recent publications are predicting that we have 20 years before the dire consequences of a warming climate will push us to a point of no return. People cause climate warming and here are 50 things we can do now to help the earth.

The earth is a giant ecosystem that deserves our protection. Without our environment, we would be unable to thrive as humans. It's up to each of us to do our part to help protect the environment. **Any time you can reduce the amount of water you use, save on using gasoline, reduce the use of electricity, prevent items from going into landfills or save on natural resources, you help protect the environment in important ways.**

- 1 Compost food leftovers instead of throwing them away or sending them down the garbage disposal, which needs water and electricity to run. You can then use the compost for your garden.
- 2 Walk or ride a bicycle to work or to run errands instead of driving a car or motorcycle, which both use gasoline and emit carbon monoxide into the air.
- 3 Utilize the dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand. Doing so saves water. You will save 23 gallons of water and 1.5 kilowatts of energy for every 12 place settings washed.¹
- 4 Start a small backyard vegetable garden. You'll save multiple car trips to the grocery store for common and easy to grow items like zucchini, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, onions, potatoes, scallions and garlic.

- 5 Grow an indoor herb garden in your kitchen window. Snip the herbs as needed to keep your herb plants growing indefinitely. You'll save using gas on trips to the grocery store for last minute fresh ingredients like basil, thyme, oregano and sage.
- 6 Use hand blending instead of using an electric blender whenever you need to blend ingredients together. Blenders use 640 watts of energy for every 3 minutes of use.
- 7 Turn off your hot tub when not in use or get rid of it altogether. Hot tubs use a continuous supply of power, even when you keep it on the lowest setting.
- 8 Install a low-flow toilet to replace your standard toilet. You'll save up to seven gallons per flush from a regular toilet.
- 9 Volunteer with a conservation group such as Greenpeace. Greenpeace relies on volunteers and professionals around the world to make a difference.
- 10 If you don't have the resources to volunteer your time, you can donate money or environmental and conservation groups like the World Wildlife Fund or World Nature Organization.
- 11 Lead the fight for conservation efforts in your own community. Lobby your local town hall for better environmental practices throughout local neighborhoods.
- 12 Have a beehive on your property. Bumblebees are dying across the country due to heavy use of pesticides. If you don't have your own land, consider asking a local farmer or other landowner if you can have a beehive on their property. Growers will welcome having plentiful bees to pollinate their plants.
- 13 Spot clean clothes instead of throwing them in the washing machine every time a little spill happens. You'll end up washing fewer loads over time.
- 14 Have a grey water system installed on your property. A grey water system reuses the water from sinks and washing machines and diverts it to the garden where you can use the water for irrigation or washing garden equipment, cars, grills, etc.
- 15 Use your own reusable bags for every shopping trip. You'll cut down on the manufacture and use of plastic bags, which end up in our oceans and landfills.
- 16 An hour before bedtime, switch from electric lighting to candlelight. That's a savings of seven hours of electricity use each week, plus the candlelight will be more conducive to a good night's sleep.
- 17 Resist the temptation to buy every new gadget that hits the market. New gadgets usually use electricity, and the more you own, the more energy you'll waste.
- 18 Recycle electronics instead of throwing them away. Programs that recycle electronics may even pay you to do so.
- 19 Consider a cremation instead of a funeral with a casket. Caskets use up precious wood and the varnish and other preservatives used in a traditional funeral end up in the soil and groundwater.
- 20 Use soap nuts for laundry instead of buying laundry detergent. Soap nuts come from the Sapindus tree, and contain natural surfactants that are effective, yet harmless to the environment.
- 21 Allow hair to air dry instead of using a blow dryer every time you wash your hair. Not only is it better for your tresses; you'll save on electricity use.
- 22 Use your consumer spending power to support companies that actively help the environment, like Scott brand of Kimberly-Clark, which sells bathroom tissue. The company plants trees to replace ones used for paper manufacturing, offers a 20% recycled paper version of toilet tissue, and has a coreless bathroom tissue product.
- 23 Eat more raw food items like salads and crudités. Consider eating less beef and more vegetables. Cooking uses energy and water.
- 24 Cook a week's of meals in one day. Cooking one dish for an hour takes up a lot more energy than cooking an entire roast or entire menu in the oven during that same hour.
- 25 Encourage your family to eat meals together. If all family members are eating on individual schedules, that's more microwaving, more baking, more refrigerator door openings than if everyone eats at a set time and multiple meals are made at one time.

- 26 If you live alone, consider not flushing the toilet every time you urinate, or at least every other time. Doing so will save gallons of water from every flush.
- 27 Consider second uses before you throw anything away that will end up in the landfill. Onion bags can be used to scour the sink. Bread ties can be used to control electrical cords. Large plastic bags can be used to line wastebaskets. Paper bags can be used to store leftovers in the fridge.
- 28 Buy only the amount of paint you'll need to finish a project. If you do end up with leftover paint, donate it to a place like Habit for Humanity or a local school or community center.
- 29 Invest in a home water filter and use tap water to fill up glass or stainless steel water bottles instead of buying and drinking bottled water.
- 30 Set up rain barrels in the backyard to capture rainfall. Use the water to wash garden equipment or for irrigation of your lawn and garden.
- 31 Throw on a sweater and wooly socks instead of turning up the heat in winter.
- 32 Replace light curtains with heavy thermal drapery in cold months to keep warmth inside the house.
- 33 On hot days, clean shutters closed to help keep the house cool so you don't have to rely so much on air conditioning.
- 34 Unplug the TV and other appliances that create a slow electricity drain with LED lights that are constantly on. You don't need to know the time on your cable box while you're sleeping.
- 35 Invest in a plentiful supply of cotton kitchen towels and rely on them to clean up countertops and spills instead of buying an incessant supply of paper towels.
- 36 Consider buying a reel mower to cut your grass instead of a gasoline or electric-powered mower. Reel mowers use nothing but muscle to get the job done, plus cut down on noise pollution.
- 37 Buy from local farmers whenever possible. The cost to the environment on transporting and refrigerating foods across the country's highways is massive. 15
- 38 Boycott the use of pesticides on your property. These poisons enter the soil and groundwater, and end up killing the soil nutrients. Instead, rely on natural gardening techniques to keep weeds and pests at bay.16
- 39 Don't buy individually wrapped items like candies, cookies and medicine. The more wrapping, the more the environment is harmed.
- 40 Use manual tools instead of electric whenever possible. Ban the drill and opt for a screwdriver instead. Use a hand saw instead of miter saw or chain saw.
- 41 Replace a battery or electric powered alarm clock with an old-fashioned wind up model. It will work just as well without using up energy.
- 42 Buy products with less packaging. The more natural fruits and vegetables you buy, the less packaging will be involved. Buying in bulk will also cut down on packaging materials.
- 43 Place produce directly into your shopping cart or into personal reusable bags instead of pulling a produce plastic bag from the dispenser every time.
- 44 Use twine and fabric to wrap and tie gifts instead of paper printed wrapping paper and cellophane tape.
- 45 Commit to using washable diapers instead of disposable diapers. Diapers take up a lot of space in the landfills.
- 46 Get rid of carpet in the home so you never have to run an electric vacuum again. Instead, use a broom and/or mop to keep floors clean. For smaller area rugs, use a manual carpet sweeper.
- 47 Make recycling easy in your home. Place dedicated recycling receptacles everywhere where waste is; in the bathroom, home office, bedrooms and kitchen. Remember that paper tissue is recyclable, as is most office paper waste, including shredded paper.
- 48 Keep a list of recyclable materials posted on the inside of a kitchen cabinet door for family members to refer to. Common items like plastic bags, aluminum foil, paperboard liners, and beer tops are easily recycled, yet many people forget to do so.

- 49 Have the kids ride bikes to school and jobs instead of taking the bus or driving. Extra bus stops mean more fuel expended, and every time the car is driven, gasoline is used.
- 50 Make one night a week a "no-device" night. Turn off electrical devices and play a board game, tell stories or go for a family walk.

If each person does their part to help protect the environment for future generations, then we can turn around what has become a hazardous situation. Your efforts to protect the environment don't have to be on a grand scale. No one is asking you to sacrifice your lifestyle or comfort. These 50 ways that you can help can all be done by anyone, no matter your economic status or living situation. The best part is, you won't even notice a difference in your daily life; but the world will notice because the environment will become better, little by little. It's not too late.

from Jane Stenson, Chair of the Creation Care Committee

Trinity Episcopal Church – Platteville and Trinity Episcopal Church – Mineral Point are served by one Administrative Assistant. To contact Terrie Hoffman, Parish Administrative Assistant, please call during office hours or email Terrie at either church email address. For placing announcements in our church bulletin, contact Terrie by 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

608-348-6402 – Platteville Office

Office hours are: Wednesdays: 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Emails: Platteville -- trinitychurch@centurytel.net
Mineral Point -- trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com



Merry Christmas