

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  
The Reverend Brian E. Backstrand, Rector  
Dorothy Prouty, Music Minister

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.

### MUSINGS from Fr. Brian

#### On the Importance of Character

Peter Gomes died suddenly in 2011 from a heart attack during his impressive tenure at Harvard as Pusey Minister in Harvard's Memorial Church and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals. He was 68. Two of his books are *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart* – a nuanced exploration of the Bible – and *The Good Life: Truths that Last in Times of Need* – a sequel which explores virtue and ethics from especially classical theology and philosophy. He received 39 honorary degrees throughout his academic and ministerial career.

Gomes graduated from Bates College in 1965 and then Harvard Divinity School in '68 before teaching history and directing the Freshman Experimental Program at Tuskegee Institute. He came back to Harvard in 1970 to serve initially as Assistant Minister. At Harvard, among other appointments, he served as acting director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research from 1989 to 1991.

Gomes comes to mind today as I muse just a bit on character. Gomes came out as gay in 1991. Later he told a reporter from the Boston Globe:

**I'm always seen as a black man and now I'm seen as a black gay man. If you throw the other factors in there that make me peculiar and interesting — the Yankee part, the Republican part, the Harvard type — all that stuff confuses people who have to have a single stereotypical lens in order to assure themselves they have a grasp on reality,**

Character asks us –among other things – to assess the lenses through which we see others. It asks us to see distinctives instead of lumping people together. In an age of label making – the slapping of hastily-arrived conclusions onto others – some of his words on character and the virtues which support it strike home.

I close with two quotes from Gomes' writing:

**This is ... why St. Thomas urges practice of the virtues upon us: not simply to perfect the virtues themselves, but to make effective use of them in the discernment of evil and**

the prosecution of good. The practice of virtue is the daily work of the believer: it does not wait for a crisis, since to wait for a crisis is to create a crisis. The cardinal virtues [prudence, temperance, justice, fortitude] are not made up by human philosophy as a consensus document for human practice. They are gifts of God, and they reflect what God is and what God values."

– *The Good Life: Truths That Last in Times of Need*

Mystery is not an argument for the existence of God; mystery is an experience of the existence of God. Very much like suffering and joy, mystery can often be that place in which we come to know better who God is, and who we are. The Bible is valuable to us because it is the record of those for whom mystery and meaning are not antithetical but a life's work in the growing knowledge of self and of God. It is my impression that this biblical ambition for humankind is perhaps more urgent and vital now than at any previous point in history.

– *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*

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*Please remember prayers for Joan, Audrey, 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, Anita, and Wes.*

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## VESTRY AND WARDENS

Beth McGehee, Senior Warden

Tom Faull, Junior Warden

Brent Bowers

Annie Chapman

Kathy Madigan

Mark Prouty

Mark Prouty, Clerk of the Parish

Janean Faull, Treasurer

## Church Schedules

### Altar Guild

October	7	C. Holland	K. Madigan
	14	C. Hunt	J. Faull
	21	A. Chapman	B. McGehee
	28	J. Stenson	M. Backstrand

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Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers

October

	Usher	Lectors	Eucharistic Minister	Acolytes
7	M. Prouty	C. & I. Bowers	C. Holland	B. McGehee
14	B. McGehee	C. Hunt	P. Cole	J. Underly
21	K. Madigan	P. Cole	K. Erdmann	I. & N. Bowers
28	K. Erdmann	K. Madigan	C. Holland	J. Faull

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](mailto:trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com) so it will be included in the Sunday bulletin, and to me for the weekly email.

Did you notice how cozy warm the church was last Sunday? The new furnace is in! Thank you to all the people who generously contributed toward the cost of the furnace.

Fr. Brian's schedule for October includes the following days off: Thursday October 11 through Wednesday, October 17.

Dates to Remember

October: **Upcoming Small Group Study** on what it means to be Episcopalian. We will use two books: *A People Called Episcopalians*; a brief introduction to our way of life and *The Episcopal Way*; church teachings for a changing world. Please contact Fr. Brian if interested in joining this study.

Saturday, October 6th: **Combined All-Church Mini Retreat** to be held at Wisconsin Badger Camp from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Our program includes small group discussion and worship. Lunch is provided. Convenient parking and access.

**Directions to Badger Camp:**

• Take Highway 39 to Edmund. • In Edmund, turn left onto 18. • Follow 18 through Montfort, Fennimore, and Mt. Hope • Approximately 5 miles past Mt. Hope there will

be a sign for Badger Camp • Turn right on Military Ridge Road to go to Badger Camp - there will be a historical marker on the right side of the road right before you turn on Military Ridge Road • If you get to Patch Grove, you have gone too far. • Follow Military Ridge Road to Munz Lane • At one point, following a 90 degree turn to the right, you will come to a yintersection, stay to the right. • Shortly after, Munz Lane will be to your left • Turn left on Munz Lane • This will take you to the opening gate of Badger Camp • The lodge is about a mile down the driveway. The distance is 52 miles and should take 1 hour 5 minutes driving time.

Thursday, October 11th: **Indigenous Peoples' Day Lecture** at UW-Platteville Nohr Gallery Ullsvik Hall from 6-7:30 pm. William Quackenbush, Historic Preservation Program Director of the Ho-Chunk Nation will speak about "Ho-Chunk History; Past, Present, and Future".

October 11, 12 & 13 and 18, 19 & 20th: **Rummage Sale** in Legate Hall from 9:00 am—5:00 pm. The last Saturday, October 20th, from 9:00 am—1:00 pm.

Saturday, October 13th: **2018 Diocesan Convention** begins at 9:00 am at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, WI. Visitors Welcome!

Wednesday, October 17th: **Type2 Diabetes Support Group** 1 p.m. in the Cunningham Center, Trinity-Platteville.

Wednesday, October 24th: Mindfulness and Ice Cream, a 4 hour workshop led by Jan Johnson. It will meet in Legate Hall from 10 AM – 3 PM; it costs \$12 and includes lunch. Please call or email Jan for reservations or further information; maximum enrollment is 12.

Sunday, November 4th: **10:30 am Combined Worship at Trinity-Platteville followed by a potluck and 1:00 pm Combined Vestry** meeting in the Cunningham Center.

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

#### **From the Creation Care Committee:**

We're taking a rest, a break, from the environmental 'work' of the past year and a half. We're NOT taking a break from the idea of STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION, just a break from the meetings and organizing and big events.

FALL CLEAN UP: As part of the idea of restoration of the Trinity triangle, Mark Prouty presented his list of 'tasks' we might address strategically. We commend the Vestry for speaking with/hiring Bill Hamilton about the large and failing maple outside of Legate Hall. Further, Mark has planned a fall clean up this October - you know, clipping down Norway maple saplings, raking, et al. We trust these clean ups will become a regular part of our lives together.

REFLECTIONS ON OUR FALL EVENT: Two things stand out: the school groups film event on Friday, September 7th and the visit of Abenacki storyteller Joseph Bruchac. Thank you notes are posted on the white board in Legate Hall which visually and in text thank Trinity for inviting them to this 'free' event as well as highlight some of the Big Ideas: reintroducing wolves - the alpha predator - into Colorado which balances the entire ecosystem, concern for bats increasingly susceptible to a white nose fungus, and concern for single use plastic straws. Because we distributed magnets with a sea turtle saying "Don't feed me plastic!", several groups have determined to speak up in their communities about single use plastic. See? Activism has been inspired!

The opportunity to hear the environmental story in a different way came with Joseph Bruchac whose storytelling concert compels us to PAY ATTENTION to the environment. On Sunday during our worship service, Joseph once again played his Native flute and refreshed our thoughts toward being thankful for each piece of the environment. He sends messages of PEACE...in his writing, his telling and his person.

The Diocesan Grant is spent down (finished), and monies that remain are from the national or Stewardship of Creation grant. When the committee gets up and running, please know that anyone may join us.

Jane Stenson, Chair

**608-348-6402 – Platteville Office**

- Office hours: Wednesday and Friday from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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