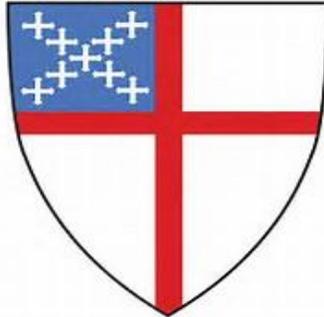


# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 2017

The Episcopal Church



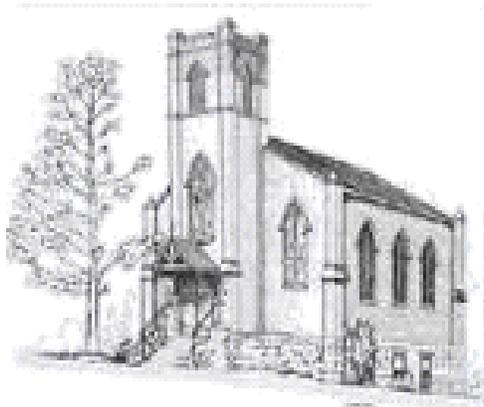
## WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME!

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  
Church Office: 608-987-3019

Email: [trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com)  
Fr. Brian - Email: [bebackstra@aol.com](mailto:bebackstra@aol.com)  
Fr. Brian's cell: 630-939-3313  
Webpage: [trinitympt.org](http://trinitympt.org)

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**

***About this time of year...* -- The Rev. Brian Backstrand**

On my recent retreat, I ran into this comment from Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest who has written widely and who directs the Center of Action and Contemplation. In his book, *Everything Belongs*, Fr. Rohr offered some comments about religious experience and meaningful ritual:

*The trouble with much of civil religion and cultural Christianity is the lack of ... religious experience. People who haven't had this experience tend to get extremely rigid, dogmatic and controlling about religion.... Rituals are good and probably needed, but for Christians, there needs to be holy playfulness about them. ... The great commandment is not "thou shalt be right." The great commandment is to "be in love." ... As others have rightly said, all that is needed is 'surrender' and 'gratitude.'*

Christmas is a particular time when we want all things to be correct and right and, in a word, 'perfect.' We have expectations that somehow the perfect moment, the perfect carol, the perfect gentle snow fall, the perfect family gathering will make all things right. As we approach this season, as we worship together, share the joys of caroling, hear the words of the birth of Jesus read once more, gather as family and friends, may we strive not for perfection, but instead set aside our agendas and expectations in favor of the presence of God's Spirit.

May we find a new freedom to reflect on what we have been given. For we have been given, Jesus. We have been given God taking on human flesh, drawing close to us in the mystery of the Incarnation. If we but pause to look, may we experience this Presence. May we yet again see the baby, the innocent Christ-child, the vulnerable and holy presence of the Most High reaching out to us.



## WORSHIP

Do you have a church family, a spiritual place to call home? Whether you are a person of faith or a seeker or spiritual truth, Trinity Church invites you to explore your faith journey as part of our faith community.

This newsletter and our webpage will provide some sense of who we are, but ultimately a church is its people.

Most Sundays we worship at 9:00 am. We follow this up with a time of food and fellowship...please join us. To learn more about Trinity, please contact:

**Fr. Brian Backstrand 630-939-3313; bebackstra@aol.com**

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### ***Prayer Concerns:***

*Kat, Jocelyn, Catherine, Ann, Dottie, Craig, Bonnie, Zach, Ruthie, Ray, Patrick J., Patrick F., Jill, Derek, Brandy, Doug and Christie.*

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Office Hours (Platteville): Wednesday 1:00 – 5:00 and Thursday 8:30-12:30

608-348-6402 (Terrie Hoffman, Administrative Assistant)

## **LESSONS and CAROLS for CHRISTMASTIDE at TRINITY**

On December 10th at 6:00 Trinity welcomes the season with prelude music and with the Lessons and Carols service. Prelude music of carols is offered from The Wand'ring Minstrels, a flute quartet, as well as from Monica Dunn and Aaron Dunn. The service proper begins with a procession to ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY, and Trinity has invited clergy and members of the community to read the lessons. We are joined by the Chough Singers - the Cornish men's chorus (Two parishioners are members!). This promises to be a most beautiful and inspiring service. A reception follows in Legate Hall. Please join us and bring your neighbors!

### **The STEWARDSHIP of CREATION – Jane Stenson**

It is with great pleasure that we announce a second grant for Trinity! This time it is from the national Episcopal church. We are honored and humbled that the national grants committee has accepted our broadened environmental projects with a \$10,000 award. “Stewardship of Creation” grants focus on local faith-based projects for mitigating climate change and safeguarding the integrity of Creation.” This allows us to pursue:

1. the building of two gardens - a perennial bed that replicates our altar trefoil window and a rain garden;
2. an extended Wild and Scenic Film Event - changing from one evening to a weekend format including school groups on Friday afternoon;
3. a coordinated Speakers Series to include scientists and storytellers;
4. a rain barrel initiative for the community where the grant pays a portion of the rain barrel cost and participants attend a workshop with UW Extension;
5. a children's environmental formation series. These ambitious local projects will enhance cooperative work and the “birth” of Big ideas. The Grants Committee of the Trinity Church invites your participation.



## Sing, Sing, Sing!

A Women's Chorus has been created for all those interested. The chorus is being led by Laura Anderson, Chair of Liberal Arts Education, UW-Platteville. Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Platteville. Our next rehearsal is Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm. The chorus will be singing at our Combined Advent IV service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in Mineral Point.

- Do not forget to contribute to the Food Pantry basket. **The need is always there.**
- Choir practices will be announced via email. If interested in singing, please contact Dorothy Prouty or email at [proutyme@gmail.com](mailto:proutyme@gmail.com)
- Have you turned in your pledge card yet?
- Are you interested in joining our Lay Ministry Team? Ushers, Acolytes, Eucharistic Minister, Lectors and Altar Guild are areas in need. Please contact Father Brian if you are interested or would like more information.
- Lay ministry schedule, bulletin, announcements, and prayer concerns are welcome.

### VESTRY AND WARDENS

**Joan Faull, Senior Warden**  
**Beth McGehee, Junior Warden**  
**Claire Holland**  
**Kathy Madigan**  
**Jane Stenson**  
**Mark Prouty, Clerk of the Parish**  
**Janean Faull, Treasurer**

## Lay Ministry Schedule

Usher                      Lector                      Eucharistic Minister                      Acolyte

### December 3

M. Prouty                      I. Bowers                      K. Madigan                      B. McGehee

Altar Guild:                      A. Chapman & B. McGehee

### December 10

K. Madigan                      P. Cole                      K. Erdmann                      J. Faull

Altar Guild:                      J. Stenson & M. Backstrand

### December 17

C. Holland                      M. Prouty                      P. Cole                      I. Bowers

Altar Guild:                      C. Holland & K. Madigan

### December 24 (Christmas Eve)

M. Prouty                      C. Hunt                      C. Holland                      B. McGehee

Altar Guild:                      C. Hunt & Joan Faull

### December 31

Pending                      K. Madigan                      I. Bowers                      B. McGehee

Altar Guild:                      A. Chapman & B. McGehee

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, December 3**     **Pledge Sunday.** Everyone is asked to please bring their pledges to church on this first Sunday in Advent.

**Monday, December 4** The **Stewardship of Creation Grant Committee** will meet at 5:00 p.m. in Legate Hall.

**Wednesday, December 6**   **Confirmation at Platteville** 7 p.m.

**Thursday, December 7**     **Compline** at Mineral Point at 6 p.m.

**Sunday, December 10**         **Lessons & Carols for Christmastide** will be held at Trinity Mineral Point at 6 p.m. with an informal reception following. We are pleased that both readers and musicians from the community will be especially involved this year and look forward to a wonderful celebration.

**Sunday, December 10**         If you are free, the **Platteville Chorale will be holding its annual Christmas concert** at Trinity Platteville at 3 p.m.

**Saturday, December 23**   **Caroling Event**   The Choir invites all to a caroling event at the Atrium (care center) in Mineral Point at 2:00 p.m. Come to sing or just listen and be merry, and thus spread the Christmas cheer. **Rehearsals** for caroling are Wednesday, December 13th at 6 p.m. and at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 16th.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### **Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 a.m. A Combined Eucharist will be held at Trinity Mineral Point with readings and hymns for Advent IV. The Women's Chorus will sing.



5:00 p.m. The Feast of the Nativity will be held at Trinity Platteville.

8:00 p.m. The Feast of the Nativity will be held at Trinity Mineral Point

*“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”  
Peace and blessings...*