

## **FEBRUARY**

Trinity Episcopal Church  
The Rev. Brian E. Backstrand

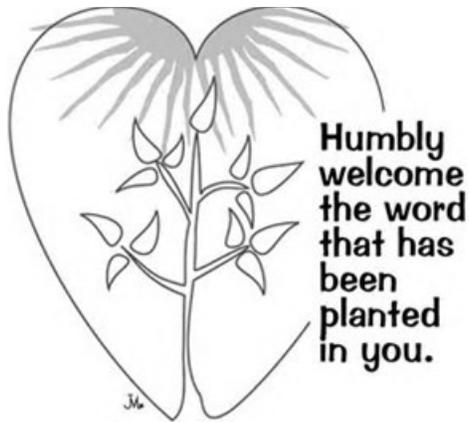
Dorothy Prouty  
Music Minister

## **VESTRY**

Jo-an Faull	Senior Warden (elected 2016)
Beth McGehee	Junior Warden (elected 2016)
Claire Holland	2018
Kathy Madigan	2018
Ann Chapman	2016
Kris Erdmann	2017
Sara Hector	Treasurer

## **TRINITY GUILD**

Carolyn Hunt	President
Jane Stenson	Secretary
Sara Hector	Treasurer



### TRINITY EPISCOPAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	USHERS	LECTOR PRAYERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	ACOLYTE
<b>FEB.</b> 5	J&T Faull	K. Martin	S. Hector	S. Hector
12	B. McGehee	K. Madigan	K. Madigan	S. Hector
19	K. Madigan	C. Bowers	C. Whitford	S. Hector
26	K. Erdmann	K. Erdmann	C. Holland	S. Hector

### USHERS DUTIES

1. Before the service, greet the people as they arrive and distribute the bulletins.
2. At 9:25, insure the Bell is rung.
3. At the Offertory, bring the bread and wine forward, receive the offering and bring it to the Altar at the Doxology.
4. Assist as needed.
5. Following the service, go through the church and pick up loose bulletins, return the service books to their racks and raise the kneelers.

## LECTORS' DUTIES

1. Carefully review the lessons and gain a full meaning of their context and significance.
2. Practice reading the lesson. Use pause and inflection to convey the meaning.
3. Prior to the service, pick up the Prayer List.
4. Lead the prayers of the people (you select the version).
5. Read to the back of the church with assurance.

## ALTAR GUILD

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	5	Ann Chapman	Beth McGehee
	12	Marilee Backstrand	Jane Stenson
	19	Claire Holland	Kathleen Madigan
	26	Carolyn Hunt	Jo-an Faull

### *To Those Who Serve*

*That I may go to the altar of God, to the god of my joy and gladness;  
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.*

*Psalm 43*

*O God of beauty, love and peace:*

*Make us thankful for the privilege of adding beauty to Thy sanctuary;  
Growing in love through Thy service and gaining peace from Thy presence;  
Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

## CHOIR NEWS

Choir,

Please check your email for updates on choir rehearsals and performance dates. As Lent and Easter approach, there may be additions and/or changes. Dorothy

February – the month that we often resent (I hope it isn't because of Punxsutawney Phil.) James sends this poem. Perhaps he is nostalgic for Wisconsin??

*Here comes February*

*Taking its chance  
Stating its case  
Eager to be  
Noticed*

*She never gets to see  
The tightly rolled  
Little green socks  
In the drawers  
In the trees.  
Everybody's  
Always barefoot  
Around her  
Everyone's  
Always hungry  
For  
Sunshine  
Around her  
Everyone's bones  
Are  
Just  
Stiff  
Everyone's  
Skin  
Is just  
Dry  
And  
Crackly  
Even  
The little  
Brown  
Gloves are  
All  
Gone  
They few away  
And no one sings  
No one  
Perches  
No one  
Walks  
Around  
Pecking bugs*

*Underneath  
Their wings  
Wondering  
Where  
All  
The  
Little  
Green tightly  
Packed  
Socks are.  
February is just  
A little  
Month.  
Just a tiny set  
Of days  
That sometimes  
breathes  
Warm  
And sometimes  
breathes  
Cold  
and sometimes  
Especially  
Late at night  
Sighs.*



*Musings...*

*The Way*

Lately, when it comes to Trinity church here in Mineral Point, I have found myself thinking of portals and pathways as we seek to strengthen our fellowship and to reach out to others.

In Holy Scripture Jesus proclaims that he, the Messiah of G-d\*, is the Way. At one point, John has Jesus speaking words of comfort, telling us that he is the way, the truth and the life. And Jesus in Matthew invites us: *Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* Although some of his words are harsh, Jesus often reaches out to us with an invitation to draw near and seek his presence.

The early church, following the great flowing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in Jerusalem became known as The Way. Luke, writing in Acts, tells us: *And they devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* They became known as The Way as a result of living in the presence of the Spirit of G-d which strengthened them.

The mission statement of our church proclaims: *We are committed to supporting and promoting a journey of spiritual growth.* Among the many ways of interpreting this statement, I see the supporting and the promoting of our spiritual journey as a statement that we, too, seek to be The Way.

We seek to be not an exclusive way, not a dogmatic way, but a place and path in which we connect with one another and seek to strengthen one another spiritually. As we do this, we seek the presence of the Holy Spirit that Spirit that invites us to turn, with whatever burdens we carry, towards Jesus as the source of spiritual rest and wholeness.

Where does the Spirit of G-d touch our lives, inform our values, lift up our own spirits, provide purpose in living? Sometimes it is simply too easy to think of our church in organizational terms. When we do this (and this we certainly need to do), we forget that we are family, a veritable spiritual household, seeking and living in the presence of G-d.

When we seek to live in the presence of G-d and experience that presence, our family is strengthened, our diversity becomes a gift, our sense of division recedes, our ability to love grows.

Let us continue to promote and support this journey of spiritual growth.

Fr Brian

- \* *I am using this term to indicate the holiness of YHWH. Our common term for ultimate reality, God, has become so overused and abused that I wonder if the reality of whom we speak speaks to us any longer through that term.*



## News

### Dates to Remember

February 9 ~ Noon Bible study at 12:30 here      Future date: 2/16

February 11 ~ Leadership Training Day at Nashotah House

February 12 ~ Annual Meeting following 9:00 a.m. worship  
Following our meeting together, we will share a pot luck meal.

February 12 ~ Benefit for Adam's Family (12-3) Methodist Church  
Benefit is to support the Adams' family and Dave's recovery. We have been asked to donate heart-shaped cookies. A sign-up sheet is posted in Legate Hall, so please sign up! Some cookies can be plain, some sprinkled with red sugar, or some iced if you please. Jane Stenson will take them across the street before the benefit starts.  
***A free will offering will be taken to support the Adams; a check would be much appreciated.***

February 19 ~ Trinity Platteville will hold its Annual Meeting.  
Mineral Point will meet at its usual 9 a.m. time. On both of these Annual Meeting days, Fr. Brian will be at one church only.

February 19    Our combined Youth Group will meet on Sunday February 19th in Platteville at 7 p.m. If you can support the Youth Group with snacks for either of these meetings, please email Chris Bowers ([christena.bowers@gmail.com](mailto:christena.bowers@gmail.com)) and Jannan Roesch ([roesch.jannan@gmail.com](mailto:roesch.jannan@gmail.com)).

Saturday, February 26 ~ Pancake Supper at Trinity Platteville  
5:00-8:00 p.m. with music

**March 1 ~ Ash Wednesday Eucharist with imposition of Ashes 7 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday Eucharist will also be celebrated at Trinity Platteville at Noon.

March 15 Trinity's Evening Lenten Mid-Week Gatherings start March 15th (5:30). Our evening gathering will include prayers, a light meal, and a study of some chapters of I Corinthians.

**REMINDER**

EPIPHANY  
FOOD DRIVE

Trinity Episcopal will be collecting items for the Food Pantry from January 29th through February 26th. Please bring items to the church (basket/box at the back of the nave) or donate cash which will be used to purchase low stock items. The collection will be given to the interchurch food pantry located across the street at the Methodist Church. Food Pantry donations often decrease after the holiday season, even as the demand persists. Let's continue the generous spirit of the Christmas season to help those who are hungry.

Current needs are listed below, but please know that all donations are welcome: lima beans, applesauce (jars and individual servings), any individual fruit servings (low sugar), brown sugar, catsup, mustard, cold cereal, hot cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, muffin mix, juices (jars and individual servings - low sugar), baggies - all sizes, liquid laundry soap, dish detergent, aluminum foil, waxed paper, Saran wrap, sanitary napkins, handiwipes (assurance wipes). Many paper products/toiletries are not on the food stamp list and require cash, so these products are welcome too.

HERE'S HOW OUR DONATION IS CREDITED: by weight! I used to walk the bags across the street as I was able, piecemeal. NOW I will store the items until the end of the food drive - February 25th - and get them to the food pantry the next day so they can be weighed, so the record will show, for example, TRINITY EPISCOPAL - 30 pounds. Jane Stenson

*Note: Write yourself a note, put a reminder on your phone, or on your calendar. It should not be, but it is easy to forget. The need is always great.*

**We are asking each member of our congregation to provide contact information for at least 5 individuals who would be interested in receiving the monthly newsletter. Please include a full name, email address, and home address.**

**Please email Hannah Coyne: [Coyne2012@gmail.com](mailto:Coyne2012@gmail.com)**

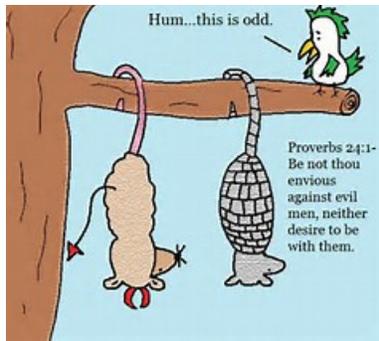
Trinity Episcopal Church is sponsoring a series of events, programs and small study groups to address these questions of aging and spirituality. Look for them periodically in the coming weeks. Claire Holland and Jan Johnson

Also note, a questionnaire will be available in church to evaluate and to comment on various church activities (Lessons/Carols, Bazaar, Christmas Eve – to name a few). Please make your thoughts known.

Also note, Hannah's office hours will be changing to 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday starting the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### *Thoughts*

I do not have anything this month particularly insightful. It is February; the groundhog did not reveal anything positive, and my mind is numb. However, I did have to chuckle to myself about a week ago. When I went to bed, I started my evening prayers, and in the middle of my prayers, I thought of something, and my reaction was, "Where do I put this in my outline?" I have my prayer ritual (of sorts), and I was at a loss as to how I would work this particular thought in. I literally laughed out loud because I had never realized until this moment that my prayers are set up in outline form (sans citations). I will always be an English teacher. It is embedded in my heart, my mind, and yes, probably my soul. Then, as part of the guilt generation, I thought, I wonder if He minds?



*(I could not resist!)*