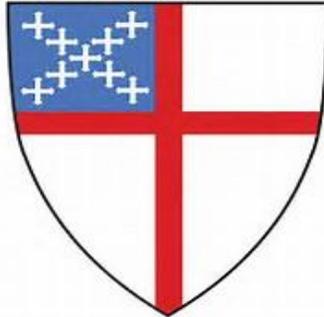


TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 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.

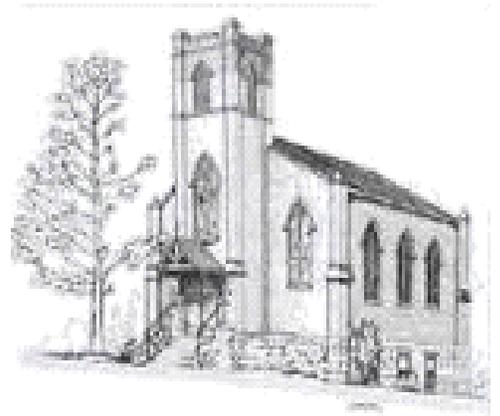
Trinity Episcopal of Mineral Point
409 High Street
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565
Church Office: 608-987-3019

Email: trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com
Fr. Brian - Email: bebackstra@aol.com
Fr. Brian's cell: 630-939-3313
Webpage: 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

Rector: The Reverend Brian E. Backstrand
Music Minister: Dorothy Prouty
Senior Warden: Joan Faull
Junior Wardens: Beth McGehee, Claire Holland, Kathy Madigan and Jane Stenson
Parish Clerk: Mark Prouty
Treasurer: Janean Faull

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 by Father Brian ... The Lenten Journey

In just a few days, on February 14th, the Christian Church will begin again its Lenten journey. Ashes will be imposed -- for us with services at Trinity Platteville at 12 noon and at Trinity Mineral Point at 7 p.m. Once more we will hear the words: *Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*

Lent is a 40 day journey of preparation. When it culminates in the Holy Week remembrance of the Passion, the intention is that in our own emptiness and loss of self-focus we will open ourselves and truly see the emptiness of God, that is Jesus in His suffering love on the cross. We would see Jesus.

In 1852, Anna Bartlett Warner published words for a hymn that wound up in over two hundred hymnals. For me, it makes a connection with Ash Wednesday when it begins:

We would see Jesus, for the shadows lengthen
Across this little landscape of our life;
We would see Jesus, our weak faith to strengthen
For the last weariness, the final strife.

But would we willingly quiet our surging and restless spirits? That is the Lenten invitation. Richard Rohr --whose book *Falling Upwards: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* we will be reading and reflecting upon during this Lenten season-- makes some important connections in this regard when he writes:

But when we are nothing, we are in a fine position to receive everything from God. ... If we look at the great religious traditions, we see they all use similar words to point in the same direction. The Franciscan word is "poverty." The Carmelite word is *nada* or "nothingness." The Buddhists speak of "emptiness." Jesus speaks of being "poor in spirit" in his very first beatitude.

Our lives move us in so many directions. In the midst of your journey and mine, my prayer for us all is that we will taste something of the grace of being empty so that we might taste something of the unexpected grace of being in the presence of the Spirit -- and being filled.

Have a quiet and reflective Lent.

Your priest, Brian+



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

Prayer Concerns:

Estela, Owen, Paul, Ann, Dottie, Craig, Bonnie, Ruthie, Patrick J., Patrick F., Jill, Derek and Brandy.



Trinity Episcopal Church – Mineral Point and Trinity Episcopal Church – Platteville is 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: Mineral Point -- trinitychurchmpt@gmail.com;
Platteville -- trinitychurch@centurytel.net

- With our continuing emphasis upon caring for the earth, The Trinity Creation Care Committee is pleased to give members and friends a book of devotions for 2018. The book is *For the Beauty of the Earth: Daily Devotions Exploring Creation*. If you have not yet received a copy, please contact Fr. Brian.
- Do not forget to contribute to the Food Pantry basket. The need is always there.

Lay Ministry Schedule

FEBRUARY	USHER	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	ACOLYTE
4	C. Holland	C. Hunt	K. Madigan	J. Faull
11	B. McGehee	M. Prouty	K. Erdmann	I. Bowers
18	A. Chapman	P. Cole	J. Faull	K. Erdmann
25	K. Erdmann	K. Madigan	I. Bowers	B. McGehee

Altar Guild

February 4	J. Stenson	M. Backstrand
11	C. Holland	K. Madigan
18	C. Hunt	J. Faull
25	A. Chapman	B. McGehee

Dates to Remember

Sunday, February 4th ANNUAL MEETING; Worship 10:30, noon buffet (dish to pass); Annual Meeting follows buffet.

Wednesday, February 7 Final Bible Study on our Sunday lectionary lessons in Legate Hall 11:00 am

Saturday, February 10 First rehearsal of MP Trinity choir, 1–2 PM at the church. For further information contact Dorothy Mead.

Wednesday, February 14th Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7 PM here and 12:00 noon at Trinity in Platteville. No Confirmation.

Saturday, February 24 Leadership Day: 9 am to 3 pm at Zion, Oconomowoc. *What's the future of our parish? Where do we go next? What would God have us do?* Simple, hard questions we've all asked. Sometimes we feel like we're in a situation close to Samuel's: "The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread." Truth is, we serve a God who very much wants to speak to us; often more than we want to listen. So, how do we learn to listen to God? How do we discern what God would have us to do and to be? The cost to attend is \$10 to cover the cost of lunch. You may mail a check to the diocesan office with "Leadership Day" on the memo line to 804 E. Juneau Ave., Milwaukee WI 53202). **To register**, please contact Terrie Hoffman at trinitychurch@centurytel.net or call 348-6402.

Wednesdays in Lent: A study of the book *Falling Upward: a Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr will be held Wednesdays at 11 AM in Legate Hall. Please call Pat Cole if you have questions

Trinity Episcopal Church of Mineral Point, Vestry Meeting Minutes Friday, Dec 15, 2017

In attendance: Fr. Brian Backstrand, Joan Faull Sr. Warden, Claire Holland, Jane Stenson, Mark Prouty, Kathy Madigan, guests Merilee Backstrand, Janean Faull. Beth McGehee Jr. Warden absent.

Call to order with prayer at 7:00 pm.

Secretary's report: A misspelling of Joe Mohlman's name was discovered. Claire moved to accept minutes with corrections, 2nd by Jane, motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Noted that an insurance payment was mis-categorized, and the Stewardship of Creation Grant was not included in this report. Discussion on how new tax law may affect charitable contributions. Mark moved to accept the Treasurer's report as received, 2nd by Jane, motion passed.

Resolution for housing: Whereas Fr. Brian Backstrand is employed as an ordained minister by Trinity Episcopal Church, Mineral Point, WI, and housing is provided for his use, \$3,000 of his compensation shall be designated as a "parsonage allowance" within the meaning of that term in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. Kathy moved that we approve the resolution for housing allowance for 2018, 2nd by Mark, motion passed.

Rector's report: Joe at Johnson-Block recommended meeting with Fr Brian and Janean in January at earliest. There will be a Christmas day service at 10:00 am.

Stewardship of Creation Committee: Currently exploring 2 areas of focus: Water preservation (rain garden, rain barrel project), and Restoration (labyrinth, perennial bed). Proposal to involve school groups from Iowa-Grant, Mineral Point, Highland.

Finance Committee: Chart of Accounts entered, conversion of history being investigated.

Joint Committee: Did not meet. Note a combined service at Mineral Point Jan 21st with potluck, followed by Leadership Retreat with topic to be announced later.

Business items:

- Review of Holiday Gift Fair (HGF), Lessons & Carols: request anonymous feedback placing boxes in Legate hall for written notes.
- HGF comments: request for advance notice for pickup/cleanup; raffle tickets proceeds did not exceed contributions- an area for improvement.
- L& C comments: some in audience like familiar carols; Mark offered to purchase 10 more hymnals. Annie to be commended for her marketing efforts.

Brian remarked both events are an excellent example of evangelism. Kathy moved that we formally recognize Jane and Joan for leadership of these events, 2nd by Claire, motion passed. Applause for Jane and Joan.

- Proposed date for Annual meeting 10:30 am, Feb 4 th.
- Discussion on what we value as a church. Yardstick of mission: proposed events could be considered in terms of impact, effort, and cost. Lack of visibility of Outreach spending is a

concern. Monthly column in newspaper a possible effort for communicating our presence? Hannah is developing our website & FaceBook page. Mark volunteered to format the budget in a values perspective suitable for incorporating into QuickBooks.

- Next vestry meeting Saturday, Jan 20th , 9:00 am.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm by Claire, 2nd by Mark, motion passed. All motions passed unanimously unless otherwise noted. Respectfully submitted, Mark Prouty

More detail from the Creation Care Committee (formerly Grants Committee:)

The Grants Committee has met several times since learning that Trinity is the recipient of a second grant in order to begin planning our parish's environmental work for 2018. Several decisions were made immediately - 1) that we would restore what we have —the labyrinth and the perennial beds — before tackling any new projects, and 2) that we would have a spring event which would be manageable and local, namely a rain barrel initiative.

Hannah Coyne agreed to chair the labyrinth restoration. Marilee and Jane are both in the Master Gardeners' initiative this winter and feel we may be able to chair the perennial bed work. Both committees will need able work crews! as well as the original plans.

Our spring event - the Rain Barrel Initiative - is not fully formed, and we meet January 25th at 5:30 in Legate Hall in order to determine the specifics. This is an open meeting! Yet, I can share that we seek an help from the UW Extension office in learning how to install and use rain barrels. We hope to have a spiritual advisor as well to bless the rain barrels, et al, and offer - with the UW speaker a conversation about WATER. The cost of the barrels will be shared between the grant and our parishioners, friends and neighbors who participate in the event.

The Committee: Fr. Brian, Marilee Backstrand, Pat Cole, Hannah Coyne, Beth McGehee, Dorothy Mead, Mark Prouty, and Jane Stenson, chair

