

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 2018

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.

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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
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

MUSING IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

The wilderness and dry land shall be glad
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing. Is 35:1

March around here is that month in which spring and winter play tag with each other. It is often a raw month; a month of possibility, then a month of hesitation. When the snow disappears, the land in March looks decidedly dead -- until the temperature rises, the sun comes out to convince us that the days indeed are lengthening, the first birds arrive, the first flowers appear.

The crocus often is one of those first flowers that rise towards the light in this time of transition, sometimes through the snow. If the crocus appears for us in March this year, it will be for us a sign--a sign that resurgent new energy is close, Spring is arriving, darkness is abating. The crocus will tell us that Easter is poised just at the close of this month.

Isaiah's thirty-fifth chapter begins a section in which the people of Israel are promised that they will be returning from a long captivity to Zion. The desert rejoicing, the crocus, the dry land and wilderness becoming glad all underscore a message of renewal and return which later is more direct:

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong and do not fear!"
Here is your God.

In looking to learn something about this flower, I have been told online that it is a "powerful symbol of being open to capture the goodness of all that surrounds us and is available to us." Perhaps we could make that a part of our Lenten preparation as Easter draws near. Like the crocus with its cup-like shape, perhaps we too could look not to focus on the negative but to capture instead the goodness of all that surrounds us and is available to us-- even in March.

Fr. Brian

Please remember prayers for Sue, Betty, Quinn, Isabella, Kat, Lily, Jenny, Kurt, Jocelyn, Andrea, David+, Aaron, TJ, Richmond, Estele, Paul, Dottie, Bonnie, Ruthie, Patrick J., Patrick F., Jill, Derek, and Brandy.

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

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

Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers

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March				
	Usher	Lectors	Eucharistic Minister	Acolytes
4	K. Madigan	C. Hunt	C. Holland	I. Bowers
11	C. Holland	C. Bowers	K. Madigan	J. Faull
18	M. Prouty	J-M Beech	P. Cole	B. McGehee
25	B. McGehee	M. Prouty	C. Holland	I. Bowers

Dates to Remember

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Wednesday, March 7 Our study session on the book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr is held at 11 AM in Legate Hall during Wednesdays in Lent. Please call Pat Cole if you have questions.

Wednesday, March 7 Confirmation meets at 7:00 pm.

Fr. Brian's schedule for March includes the following **days off**: Thursday March 8 through Wednesday March 14.

Holy Week Schedule:

March 25 Palm Sunday – 10:30 am Combined Service at Trinity Platteville with a buffet following.*

March 29 Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm Service at Trinity Platteville

March 30 Good Friday – 12:00 noon Service at Trinity Mineral Point

March 31 The Great Vigil of Easter – 7:00 pm Saturday Service at Trinity Platteville

April 1 Easter Sunday – 10:30 am Service at Trinity Mineral Point

* Please join us for Holy Week events at either church. Also please note that on Palm Sunday, Trinity Mineral Point will also have a brief Morning Prayer (9-9:30 a.m.) service in advance of the combined Palm Sunday Eucharist at Trinity Platteville.

Other Announcements

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Do not forget to contribute to the Food Pantry basket. The need is always there.

This month's newsletter includes summaries of our annual meeting of February 4th as well as the Vestry meetings thus far in 2018. Please note that these are not approved minutes and are included for your information about the business of Trinity Church.

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Trinity Episcopal Church of Mineral Point, Annual Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2018

In attendance: Fr. Brian & Marilee Backstrand, Tom & Joan Faull, Beth McGehee, Dorothy & Mark Prouty, Kathy Madigan, Jane Stenson, Anne Chapman, Claire Holland, Carolyn Hunt, Catherine Whitford, Janean Faull.

Call to order with prayer.

Preliminary discussion regarding Bishop Miller's visit proposed in Jan 2019 drew attention to confirmants to arrange a visit sooner (May or June) at one of the Madison churches. Details to be determined.

Reports presented: 2017 Annual meeting minutes, Joan Faull - Sr Warden, Fr. Brian Backstrand-Rector's report, Jane Stenson - Creation Care Committee, Mark Prouty - Finance committee, Carolyn Hunt - Trinity Guild. Special mention of Kate Whitford's allowance to use her store space for display and sale of nicer "rummage" items was appreciated. Motion to accept 2017 all report made by Beth McGehee, 2nd by Jane Stenson, motion passed.

Business items- Fr Brian announced his intention and vestry approval to pursue a $\frac{3}{4}$ time schedule. This will normally mean he will be absent the Thursday prior through the Wednesday following the second Sunday of each month. He will be accessible if extenuating circumstances arise. It was proposed that a calendar soon be developed for the year indicating his schedule as well as other events.

Treasurer's 2017 report and 2018 budget (including Fr Brian's proposed schedule) show a budget deficit of nearly \$13,000, of which \$7,000 has been earmarked to replace the furnaces for the upstairs. Fund raising proposals include offering a progressive dinner, silent auction, a capital campaign appeal, \$1000 club raffle, and more. The vestry will form a group to address this concern. Mark moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, Annie 2nd, motion passed.

Nominations for Wardens and Vestry- Beth McGehee nominated for Sr. Warden, Tom Faull nominated for Jr. Warden. No other nominations for wardens were put forth. Vestry nominations were for Brent Bowers for a full 3-year term to the end of 2020, and Annie Chapman to fill the remaining 1 year of Claire's term (end of 2019). No other nominations were put forth. Joan moved that we accept the slate of nominees by acclamation, Jane 2nd, motion passed.

Nominations for Diocesan Convention delegates- Jane Stenson, Mark Prouty, Kathy Madigan, Tom Faull. Alternates are Joan Faull and Beth McGehee. Kathy Madigan moved to accept the slate of delegates, Annie 2nd, motion passed.

Other business- Beth described the decisions required to setup a Facebook page for Trinity. We appreciate her diligence and efforts.

Joan moved to adjourn, Annie 2nd, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 with the Lord's Prayer.

All motions passed unanimously.

Mark Prouty

February Vestry Updates-- Beth McGehee, Sr. Warden

Our Annual meeting for Trinity Church was held on February 4th with election of new Vestry members Ann Chapman and Brent Bowers. Tom Faull was elected Junior Warden and Beth McGehee was elected Sr. Warden. Returning vestry members include Kathy Madigan and Mark Prouty. Father Brian presented to the congregation a reduction in his scheduled work time. This

change was approved by the Vestry in January 2018. His first week off will be March 8-March 14th. A supply priest will be with us for the service on March 11th. The newly elected Vestry met on February 18th with all members present. Janean Faull was re elected Treasurer and Mark Prouty was re elected clerk. Replacement of both furnaces for the Church was discussed. Brent Bowers agreed to chair a Fundraising committee for this capital improvement project. Jane Stenson presented the Creation Care committee report including information on the Rain Barrel Project with training occurring April 21st and Fr. John Floberg's visit scheduled for the weekend of April 27th-29th. Please see forthcoming February Vestry minutes. More information on the Rain Barrel Project and Fr. Floberg's visit can be found in this newsletter.

Report from the Creation Care Committee (including Save the Date notice!)

In celebration of Earth Day, Trinity Episcopal Church Mineral Point is excited to announce their Spring environmental program, made possible by a grant from the National Episcopal Church. The focus will be "Water is Life". In co-operation with Aspen Ridge Home and Garden Center, Trinity will host a community workshop Saturday, April 21 on the "How's" and "Why's" of rain barrels: How we can use rain barrels to promote water conservation and economy. Early bird registration offers 60% off the price of a rain barrel (\$46)! Offer is limited.

Saturday April 28, The Reverend John F. Floberg, from Standing Rock, North Dakota, will be joining us as the guest speaker in an event at the Opera House from 6-8 p.m. He will share his experience of the important water issues facing the peoples of Standing Rock and all of us, "Water is Life".

Full details will be forthcoming soon. But mark your calendars now and keep a look out for follow-up information.

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The above announcement will appear in *The Democrat* in early March. The event is part of our outreach into the Mineral Point community. Because we have only 30 rain barrels available under the grant, we are limiting Trinity's rain barrels to 10 with only ONE barrel to each family. Reserve your rain barrel with a check for \$46 made out to Trinity Episcopal - Rain barrel (ATTN Jane Stenson) by March 15th (first come, first serve), AND you must attend the workshop at Aspen Ridge on April 21st at 10:30am, after which you can take your barrel home with you. On March 15th the remaining 20 rain barrels will be offered to the community via *The Democrat* with the same "one to a customer" and "first come, first serve" caveats.

For those who miss out on this offer, or those who would like additional rain barrels, we will create a list and then order barrels in blocks of 30 for the full discounted price of \$114. [Dorothy Mead has done Trinity a great service by negotiating this.]

The rain barrels, manufactured by RainHarvest Systems of Georgia, are flat-backed, hold 50 gallons, are oak colored and otherwise shaped like a barrel. Retail price is \$180. The cost includes screen, spigot, and diverter.

- Dimensions: 33" Tall x 23" Wide x 18" Deep
- Weight: 21.5 lbs (empty)
- Composition: UV stabilized plastic resin
- Usage: water catchment and storage of rain water

- Key Features: heavy duty rotational molded construction
- faux wood grain finish resembles weathered wood
- Warranty: 1 year warranty

The BASE - NOTE: You will want to place the barrel on a flat surface, somewhat elevated from the ground for ease of access to the spigot. We suggest the use of cinder block or pavers, depending on your situation. Bases are not provided, nor are hoses for run-off.

We would like to know if you need help securing the rain barrel to your drainpipe. MP high school students are available in Mineral Point on their workday in early May to install the rain barrels.

This is an exciting adventure for all of us! It is remarkable that we have a grant for Community Outreach in this local and limited way on the 21st, as well as addressing the Big Ideas that Father Floberg will share with all of us on the 28th and at Trinity 29th.

Jane Stenson, chair, Creation Care Committee

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

Trinity Episcopal – Mineral Point and Trinity Episcopal – Please contact Terrie, Parish Administrative Assistant, if needed.

608-348-6402 – Platteville Office

- Office hours: Wednesday 1-5 p.m. and Friday 8:30-12:30 a.m.

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