



## NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY

BY THE REV. ANNE KELSEY

Throughout the past week I said out loud, "I hope she calls soon." As I stood at the kitchen sink washing dishes, or drove to work, or at any unoccupied point in the day I thought, "I hope she's okay." In our family it's not unusual for the younger members to be engaged in interesting and challenging programs all over the world. Summer time has been the occasion for studying in Jerusalem, taking courses in Prague, hiking on wilderness outings in Montana or bicycling through British Columbia. I worry and stew, imagining the worst--car accidents, bears, and terrorists. The slip of a foot, a lightening bolt, an angry mob all take turns on the center stage of my imagination. And so I pray. I light the votives in church and various candles at home, remembering what an old Orthodox priest told a group of Anglican children on a tour of the church, that when you light a candle and pray, your prayer is hot, like the flame, and just as its heat ascends, so does your prayer ascend to the heavens fast. My basic prayer for those I love sounds far less exalted. It's more on the order of: "Oh God, please keep her safe. Oh God, don't let her get into trouble. Oh God, don't let her do anything stupid." My prayer is not a complicated business. It's straight to the point, immediate, and heart-felt. My prayer will continue more or less until all the children arrive safely back at home, and then it will begin all over with the other concerns I have for

them. The earliest prayer I can remember begins, "Now I lay me down to sleep . . ." and the newest prayer--well that depends. Books of prayers both formal and informal, ancient and contemporary, line the walls of my office. I love them all, from the Book of Common Prayer that shapes our lives to the thin paperback prayer book from the Iona Community. Sometimes those prayers are right and say exactly what I mean and feel, but sometimes they leave me feeling as if the whole truth hasn't been told. So I'm back to my struggle with prayer, with how and when I pray. An old Quaker saying is a comfort: "Hands to work and hearts to God." When I can remember this, then the part of work that's common drudgery loses its dinginess and becomes sacramental, an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Whether we stay at home or travel far away to exotic places this summer, may each one of us be blessed with God's grace, and by that grace may all those we love return safely.

Blessings,

*Anne+*

Anne

## The Feast of Pentecost

During the past several years as part of the celebration of Pentecost it was a tradition to release the red balloons that decorated the church, which floated up with our message of the gospel. Many of us cherished this event and looked forward to it with eagerness, so it is with much sadness that we must say farewell to this annual tradition. Although it's a lovely sight, even if biodegradable balloons are used, they cause damage that far outweighs the brief pleasure we get from seeing them ascend into the skies. They decompose at the same rate as an oak leaf - about four years, and long before they disintegrate cause environmental harm. Five states already have passed laws concerning balloon release, and three others have pending legislation. Land turtles and sea turtles have a preference for brightly colored balloons, which they mistake for jellyfish or other food. If they are ingested, the latex clogs their intestines and they die. The ribbon tied to the balloons gets swallowed or wrapped around birds and animals causing injury or death. Clearly, none of us wants to cause any such harm. Given all of these considerations, we are working hard to come up with an acceptable alternative way of celebrating Pentecost without harming any creatures. Releasing butterflies was investigated, but proved to be both unreliable and very costly. So this year we are going to try something new, which will still involve having our wishes ascend. So come, wear red and white clothes on Pentecost, celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, and join us for our traditional feast of strawberries afterward the 10:30 a.m. service.

### Oasis Missouri joins the Pridefest Celebration

As a member congregation of the Oasis ministry in the Diocese of Missouri, Trinity is delighted to be the host church for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Thursday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. in honor of Pridefest. A reception will follow, coordinated by Rip van Winkle. Festivities continue on Saturday, June 28 at Tower Grove Park. The Oasis Missouri will have a booth, and Trinity is responsible for providing four volunteers Saturday afternoon. Please call the church office if you're willing to help. On Sunday, June 29, The Oasis Missouri will march in the parade, and you're invited to come! Our celebrant at Trinity that day will be the Rev. Bill Baker; the rector, along with the Rev. Jason Samuel, will be walking with the Oasis contingent. More details about where to gather will be forthcoming.

## “Lush...Luminous” *Book Group’s Selection for May*

By Lisa Carpenter

“Lush.” “A tour de force.” “Luminous . . . brilliant.” So say the jacket blurbs on my copy of Ian McEwan’s Atonement, the book group’s selection for May. Published in 2001, the book was named the Editor’s Choice by the New York Times Book Review, Best Book of the Year by nine U.S. periodicals, and a Finalist for the Booker Prize.

The plot is intriguing: One stifling, English summer day in 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis cancels the debut performance of her first play, “The Trials of Arabella,” which she wrote especially to celebrate her brother Leon’s homecoming. Her actors -- visiting cousins who are refugees from their parents’ marital drama -- will not or cannot conform to her vision of the play. While wrestling with the new knowledge that the author’s power to shape reality does not transcend the page, Briony observes, but fails to grasp, a scene between her older sister Cecilia and Robbie Turner, the son of the housekeeper. She fills the gaps in her understanding of their relationship with a false tale that crushes Cecilia and Robbie.

McEwan’s deft use of language creates intimate portraits of the characters. Consider the following passage, describing a drink invented by Paul Marshall, a young man who thinks well of himself and sees no reason why others should not join his opinion: “Despite the late addition of chopped fresh mint to a blend of melted chocolate, egg yolk, coconut milk, rum, gin, crushed banana and icing sugar, the cocktail was not particularly refreshing.”

A curious thing happened when we gathered to discuss the book: Despite the prizes, a promising plot, and McEwan’s superb command of the English language, something about the book left many of us cold. Some book group members, having started it, refused to finish it. (I have read only as far as the edge that Briony is poised to push everyone over and, knowing what’s coming, have not yet decided whether to finish the book.) No one has yet, in my hearing, identified the reason the book inspires such antipathy in some. For that reason alone, I think the book warrants further consideration.

## **Congratulations to all Trinity Graduates!**

Laura Kirk from Kirkwood High, Margaret van Bakergem, from Crossroads, and Jenny Weber from Webster Groves; Carletta Fielder with a B.A. from St. Louis University; Ellie Kirk, B.A. Knox College; Matthew Haggans with an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **JIM PFAFF WINS PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD**

Our own Trinity photography, Jim Pfaff, has won a *Polly Bond Award of Merit for Photography* in the annual competition sponsored by the National Episcopal Communicators Organization.

## **Art in the Offing**

By Etta Taylor

In the niche to the right of the organ at Trinity is a place where votive candles can be lit. Until last fall, when the floors were re-done, there was an icon of the Virgin, for meditation and reflection there, as well. In the ensuing months one parishioner has strongly lamented the loss of this feminine image in our midst and has hoped for its replacement. The rector alerted the Building Arts Committee and soon this omission will be corrected.

Thanks to the generosity of Larry Sather, we have been given five painted icons from Bridge Building Images, which are representations of the feminine divine, and will be displayed on a rotating basis. In June, the image is of St. Mary Magdalene by the artist, Robert Lentz. This icon was commissioned for Grace Cathedral in San Francisco to commemorate the election of Barbara Harris, the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion. Mary Magdalene traveled the Mediterranean preaching the resurrection. Like Peter and Paul, she died a martyr. She bears witness to the important role women once held in the Church (and are beginning to do so once again.) In following months we will see images of Dame Julian, the Madonna and child, a Choctaw Virgin Mother and Child and St. Cecilia.

Perhaps there are other feminine portrayals of a divine nature that parishioners would like to share with the community or to see displayed in this space. Please let a member of the Building Arts Committee know. We are: Marjorie Hoeltzel, Michael Haggans and Etta Taylor.

## **Books for June and July**

Just in case you are looking for good things to read this summer, you might check the book group's choices for the next two months. *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, a New York Times notable book, has been reviewed in the *New Yorker* thusly: "An impassioned defense of zoos, a death-defying trans-Pacific sea adventure a la Kon-Tiki, and hilarious." The *San Francisco Chronicle* says: Life of Pi is a real adventure: brutal, tender, expressive, dramatic and disarmingly funny...It's difficult to stop reading when the pages run out."

If you are a web surfer, you can check out the July book, *The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd either at the other Trinity's site (WTC Trinity at [www.trinitywallstreet.org](http://www.trinitywallstreet.org)) or at the link there to the writer's home page. The intriguing feminine icon of the Black Madonna and other imagery of the feminine and divine are explored in this novel.

## **CHOIR NEWS**

By Virginia Benson

Trinity's choir goes on summer hiatus after Trinity Sunday, June 15, but be prepared for pleasant surprises with a variety of musical offerings throughout the summer, from guest soloists and talent within the parish. One of the former will be Cynthia Watters, who is staying with the Bensons while she performs in a principal role in Opera Theatre of Saint Louis' United States Premiere of Jonathan Dove's "Flight."

Choir Director James Nacy will have the summer off from his responsibilities both at Trinity and as teacher of instrumental music for the Washington, Missouri, school district. But, never idle, he will teach two days a week at East Central College and play cello with the Gateway Festival Orchestra, among other performances.

Organist Kurt Larson will be away the last two weeks in June attending meetings of the American Guild of Organists and the organ historical organization. He'll then return to Trinity and to his day job as architect at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

## Peace Cranes for General Convention

Decorating the tables for the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which meets from July 29 to August 8th this year, will be folded paper cranes. They are symbols of peace made known after WWII through the Japanese legend of a thousand cranes, and decorate the peace memorial in Hiroshima. On June 22 following the 10:30 service children and adults are invited to make cranes to be sent to the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, which will distribute them at convention. Join us for a fun and rewarding activity on that Sunday.

### Help Build a Habitat for Humanity

By Lisa Will-Smith

Trinity is again participating in the Habitat for Humanity project this summer. Four people are needed for two Saturdays, June 7<sup>th</sup> and July 26. The work day begins at 8 AM and ends about 3 PM. Volunteers are asked to help clean up. The address is 6411 Mount in Hillsdale, north of Delmar and west of Lucas & Hunt. The homeowner will be Elfreda Dora and her two children, Tommy and Quinntella.

Please call Lisa Will-Smith at 314-644-4124 if you can help. It is a great and worthwhile project, and a learning experience.

### Newcomers Corner

If you haven't yet met Morin and Pina Hanson, do greet them and welcome them to Trinity. Their daughter, Lexi, will be baptized on Trinity Sunday. An article about Dr. Hanson is on the bulletin board in the South Parish Hall.

### Report on Vestry Meeting of May 22, 2003

After a potluck supper and prayer in the form of readings by Virginia Benson, Barbara Grothe faithfully took notes as the following reports were received

Barbara Uhlemann submitted a report on the budget, highlighting a serious drop in pledge income. Although we had a successful pledge drive, people are not keeping up with their pledges. A few have called the office to change their commitment due to reduced salaries, but many more are behind in their pledges. Please check your records.

Anne reported on her activities for the month.

1. Among pastoral visits and counseling, these included a letter to the Bishop about the confirmation service. (which was well attended by Trinitarians). 2. She continued planning with Etta Taylor for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trinity in 2005. 3. She shared information on funding for *Claiming the Blessing* at the next General Convention in August. This resolution would authorize the development of liturgical rites for the blessing of couples in loving, faithful, monogamous, and life-long committed relationships for whom marriage is not available. 4. In Outreach, the Holy Grounds clean up had all five area churches represented and sharing the story of their congregation. The next meeting will be June 6 with Lisa Will-Smith acting as liaison. 5. The damaged table in the Memorial Garden will be dismantled.

Lucy Hale's report on the Food Ministry also had some distressing news. One of our major contributors is running out of money and may not be able to meet their second quarter commitment. This past month Trinity's Food Ministry served 255 people: 137 adults, 82 children, and 36 seniors. The vestry discussed that, as a church community, Trinity needs to commit to its food mission in time and donations.

We voted to approve the insurance coverage required by the diocese and insurance company for Directors and Officers at an additional cost of \$270 a year. We voted to accept a Diversified Contractors, Inc. bid to repair the front and back parking lots at a cost of \$12,959.

We discussed the concerns of the community and closed with Compline led by Tom Weber.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Worland

### July Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Ellen Weber  
6 Becky Daughaday  
7 Charles Watts, Margaret van Bakergem, Rev. Brooke Myers  
11 Archbishop Rowan Jones  
13 Jan Dunlap  
14 Anna Mason, Ted Taylor  
15 John Uhlemann, DeMarcus Allyn Winston  
20 Tyrone Griffin  
24 Etta Taylor  
25 Patricia Degener  
26 Quentin Winston  
27 Blanche Jones  
31 Edward Turner

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**May 31<sup>st</sup> – Visitation of the BVM**

**DATED MATERIAL**

**June**  
**Meal A Month Menu**  
Spam  
Macaroni and Cheese  
String Beans  
Canned Peaches

## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

### **Holy Eucharist**

Sunday - 8:00 a.m. (Rite I) and 10:30 a.m. (Rite II)

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday - 6:30 a.m.