

The Trinity Times

AN OASIS PARISH IN THE DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2006

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



Notes for the Journey

By The Rev. Anne Kelsey

This past January I had surgery on my left foot, which meant that despite my optimistic predictions about getting back to work in a few days I ended up staying home for almost two weeks. With my foot swathed in a bandage I lurched and hopped around the house, planning the simplest task, like making coffee, far in advance. The days stretched before me in an unusually open and vacant manner. I found domestic tasks that could be done sitting with one foot elevated, and in fact did most of the design work for a remodeling project as I lay stretched out on the couch. The telephone and internet connected me to the outside world, and I had no shortage of diversions, but the best thing about being laid up was having visitors.

Visiting is a lost pleasure for many of us. Our lives are busy, full of directed and important activity, and there seems to be little room for what appears to be rather purposeless. Recuperating from surgery gave me a taste of how important it is just to be in the company of another person with no agenda. I looked forward to the times when the doorbell rang to let me know someone had arrived to sit and talk.

On Sunday afternoon two parishioners showed up to bring me Communion. We sat in the living room, me with my foot propped up. We visited for a little while, and then one of them took the small linen cloth from the portable Communion set and put out the small chalice and paten, with the reserved Sacrament. I sat back and listened to the readings and prayers. We said the Lord's prayer together, then shared the bread and wine.

Someone asked me why I didn't have a priest come to see me. In my household there are no short-

age of priests, and I could have had my husband bring the Sacrament home. That would have been good - but it wouldn't have been from my own parish community. Baptism makes us part of the priesthood of all believers, and this is one important area where lay persons make a huge difference.

I've talked about the importance of Eucharistic visitors many times, but this time I experienced it in a new way. My church visitors not only brought me the Sacrament and shared church news, but demonstrated their caring just by showing up. My confinement was fairly brief, and I was back at work soon, but there are many in the parish who rarely get out, and for whom the Sacrament and the visit is vitally important. Here at Trinity we try and visit each week those faithful parishioners who are homebound, in nursing homes, or in the hospital. This crucial ministry needs a few more visitors (and drivers) in order to keep our current level of care. Please search your heart and pray to see if you might be called.

Blessings,

Anne+

Editor's Note:

From the Catechism

The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and according to the gifts given them to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Environment and Spirituality

by Georgia Johnston

Three years ago, the 2003 National Convention voted in four resolutions on the Environment. At the recent 2006 Convention, a resolution affirmed these 2003 resolutions. The Environment and Spirituality Group is particularly interested in number 4b of the original resolutions, which:

"Asks all Anglicans to make their own personal commitments to care for God's world, respecting all life, for 'the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it' (Psalm 24:1)."

The Environment and Spirituality group is particularly interested in how we can help all of us to comply with 4b. In that spirit, we ask all Trinity households to complete the following survey and put your response *in the collection plate*.

If Trinity were to provide a paper recycling dumpster in the parking lot would you:

- Bring my paper goods to Trinity to recycle.
- Not bring my paper goods, but I recycle my paper through other venues.
- Maybe bring my paper goods, or bring them now and then.
- Not bring my paper goods, and I don't recycle.
- I'll think about it! Show me how to do it!
- Other response:

Get Your Talent On!

By Alexah Strongheart

Are you a poet? Do you compose music and lyrics? Does your talent involve paint brushes? textiles? mixed media? If you answered "YES" to any of these (or you have an artistic talent not mentioned here and wish to share it), you are invited to participate in Trinity's next Art Project.

The theme is "Winter Solstice," and is open to original artwork, short stories, poetry and music. Individuals of all ages are invited to participate.

Submission Deadline: November 30th (before the rush of Christmas), though the "Opening" will

probably be around Epiphany. Please include items that can be displayed for at least three months.

All submissions must be able to be hung on the wall. For submissions of poetry, short stories, or musical scores or lyrics, we ask that they be printed out and framed as well.

If you have any questions, contact Alexah Strongheart at 314-741-0225 or castrnghrt@charter.net

Holy Ground Picnic

By Alexah Strongheart

Sunday, September 17 from noon to 3 p.m., members of Holy Ground Churches, such as Trinity, are invited to a picnic on the lawn of First Unitarian Church at Kingshighway and Waterman. Everything is provided, just bring yourselves.

Trinity needs to provide two volunteers for this event to help with the barbequing and set-up beginning at 10:30a.m. if you can help please contact either Anne Watts (721-2003) or Alexah Strongheart (741-0225).

Holy Ground is an organization of places of worship in the Central West End, and its members include: Central Reform Congregation (CRC), Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), St. John's Methodist Church, Cornerstone Baptist Church and First Unitarian Church.

For more information on Holy Ground, check out the poster on the bulletin board in the South Parish Hall.

Help Needed

Anyone willing to do needlepoint for wedding kneelers please contact Ron Tompkins at 314-621-5531 or ron_Tompkins@ssmhc.com

Make Note

A new organization is forming called "The Episcopal Majority". It is composed of moderate and liberal Episcopalians from around the country, and its goal is to counteract some of the negativity that has occurred since the our General Convention of 2003. Interested people may ask to be added to TEM's mailing list by emailing the Reverend David Fly at: DFly992984@aol.com People may also check out TEM's blogsite at: episcopalmajority.blogspot.com.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Those who are sick, and facing or recovering from illness or surgery:

Sandy Knaebel, recovering from a fall
Joe Palecek, recovering from a fall
Rhonda Cagle, recovering from back surgery
Dee Scott, recovering at home from a fall
Margo Skinner, lung disease
Nancy – pray for strength and courage
Carlos Daughaday, recovering from prostate surgery
Sallie Fuhri, recovering from heart surgery
Matthew Owings, lung disease

Parishioners with ongoing challenges:

Kayte Foxworth
Jackie Judd
Margaret Kane
Camilleann Nelson
Emma Johnson
Mary Moore
Betsey Gardner

Family Members:

Christy Glenn, Marjorie Hoeltzel's granddaughter

Ruth Smith, Martha Bradley's mother
Amy and Parker Connor, Kathy van Bakergem's mother and father
Lois Wright, mother of Denver Wright
Wesley, nephew of Nancy Cadenhead
Christopher Edwards - pancreatic lesion
Adele Smith – Gregory Smith's mother
Geoff Kraft - Margo Skinner's son, recovering from a stroke
Dorothy Fisher - Gil Fisher's mother
Rebecca Turner - Steve Turner's mother.

Friends:

Randy and Mike, friends of Gil Fisher - dealing with Randy's cancer.
Rose Davis, friend of Joan Dunbar - dealing with paranoia.
Mary O'Neal, friend of Joan Dunbar - renal failure, diabetes

Mourning:

Gregory Smith, Michael Randolph, Ron Tompkins, Curtis Thomas, Linda Small, Larry Sather, Mary Ellen Anderson, Sirvella Oakes, La Mont Hopsom, Bill Mayhan, Charlene Wright.

Happy Birthday To You !

Happy Birthday to the following people with August (belated) and September birthdays. We give thanks for your life and God's creation:

August Birthdays

Jeff Wunrow	08/01
Jan Parker	08/03
Julien Worland	08/04
Dee Scott	08/07
Ann Watts	08/08
Jan McAllister	08/08
Jennifer Weber	08/14
Tracie Gregory	05/15
Virginia Benson	08/16
Mimi Will	08/21
Lisa Will-Smith	08/21
John Works	08/25
Steve Turner	08/26

Andrew Moore	08/27
Fred Hale	08/31

September Birthdays

Martha Bradley	09/03
Helen Hendry	09/04
Lawrence Holmes	09/04
Charles McManis	09/08
Ron Gregory	09/08
Emily Adams	09/12
Mary Moore	09/14
Maximillian Stelzer	09/16
Anne Kelsey	09/20
Ron Tomkins	09/21
John Clifford	09/21
Ellie Chapman	09/24
Christina Krug	09/24
Margaret Kane	09/27
Alicia Pierce	09/27
Matthew Lucas-Barrett	09/28

Food Pantry News

By Steve Turner

This is the Trinity Food Ministry Report for June and July, 2006. Each Sunday women, men and children come to the South Parish hall for a hot lunch. Usually between 50 and 65 come. Tables set with napkins, plastic forks and spoons, and cups of lemonade are prepared for them. Coffee is also available. Some of the guests are "regulars"; others come only from time to time.



The meals are prepared by a number of churches – Episcopal churches throughout the area and churches which are a part of the neighborhood Holy Grounds Collaborative. Menus vary; hot dogs with baked beans, lasagna, roasted chicken with dressing, red beans and rice, soup and grilled cheese sandwiches, etc. Dessert is always a favorite. Usually there are second servings. Some guests take their second serving home with them. Depending on the number of servers available each Sunday, we either serve the meals from the kitchen window or when possible ask the guests to be seated and we serve them at the tables.

Some of our guests say very little. Many thank the servers and cooks. Some show their appreciation by helping put away folding chairs and wiping tables after the lunch. One lady even brings us plastic grocery bags for use in the pantry.

We can always use additional volunteers for the hot lunch. We prepare for the lunch after coffee hour, serve at 2 p.m. and are usually finished by 3 p.m. Come – occasionally or regularly – and be a part of this ministry to the poor in our neighborhood.

During June we served 370 in the food pantry. Likewise in July, we served 313. On the terribly hot days of summer, we found that our clients did not come in for food as frequently as in cooler weather.

***When you pray, you rise to meet in the air
those who are praying at that very hour,
and whom save in prayer you may not
meet.***

Kahlil Gibran

In the Library – Paul Tillich

By Larry Sather

We have an almost complete collection of Paul Tillich's books. He's a favorite of mine, and his thought is generally viewed as useful in the 21st century in relating faith issues to our day. He was born in Germany in 1886; his father was a Lutheran clergyman and later Bishop. After he served as Chaplain in WWI, he became critical of the German culture, and was asked by Hitler to resign his professorship. American, Reinhold Niebuhr then invited him to America to serve at a post at Union Seminary in New York (later Harvard and the University of Chicago).

Tillich has a thorough knowledge of the history of philosophy and theology. He is also a creative thinker, relating faith to science and thought. He creatively and prophetically analyzes culture. Most easily approached are his brief chapel sermons, especially, *The Shaking of the Foundations* and *The Eternal Now*. Also well admired are *The New Being*, *The Courage to Be*, *The Protestant Era*, *The Religious Situation and Biblical Religion*, and *the Search for Ultimate Reality*. We also have his *A History of Christian Thought*, *Theology of Culture*, and his three-volume *Systematic Theology*.

Tillich correlates questions arising from our culture with the possible theological responses from our faith. I heard him speak movingly once at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. His thinking is in-depth and relevant, even "existential."

Make Note of the Following

- A memorial service for Michael Randolph, Jr. will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 9th, here at Trinity. Please keep the Rev. Michael Randolph in your prayers.
- Please submit your newsletter articles by the 15th of the month. Submissions are accepted after the 15th, but are printed on a first-received, first-served basis. Please do not format them so they can easily be imported into Microsoft Publisher. Email stories to lisawillsmith@sbcglobal.net.
- Blessing of the Backpacks (and lunchboxes) for children of Trinity will be Sunday, September 10th, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

A Boy and His Church

By Robby Giunta

Rice Crispies were what I would usually eat on those Sunday Mornings. I was always a little shell shocked on those days, the kind of fatigue you feel after a moment of crisis or extreme anger or fear. But I loved the quiet. No chaos, no fighting. I had a pair of black pants and a short sleeved cotton shirt I would wear. I polished my shoes the night before so I just had to buff them. I would make sure that I had finished my cereal by 7:30, because I remember hearing something about not eating for an hour before receiving the body of Christ. I had no idea why, but was taking no chances. At 12 years old, I asked very few questions. The repercussions weren't worth it. My brother had a scar on the back of his head from asking such questions.

I didn't need to worry about closing the door too loudly when leaving for Mass. Mom and Dad were still sleeping off the liquor from the night before. My sister was living on the streets at the time. Her heroine addiction was killing her at that time. What a miracle it is to see her clean for over 25 years and alive today. My older brothers spent the nights with friends as often as they could. My younger brother was attending school for children with gifted intelligences. He was failing miserably; he had too much on his mind.

I had a great shortcut through my school yard to St. Thomas church, past the tetherball courts, and through the back gate, and then a nice one block walk through Laclede Park. I could see the people filing into St. Thomas. I made sure not to make eye contact with any of them. I would die if they asked me where my parents were. They never did. Maybe they knew. Maybe asking a child why he came to church alone all the time was more than they wanted to deal with on their "feel good" day.

I loved Mass, even though I really didn't listen much to the sermon. I used that time to look at the stations, Joseph and of course Mary. I loved Mary. I needed her. I needed a mother I could talk to. I had so much I needed to tell her, and she was always happy to listen. I always wondered if Mary's hands smelled of garlic. My nonna's hands always smelled of garlic, and she was very good to me. I was sure that Mary cooked great stuff for Jesus and loved him very much.

I just knew she loved me too. I don't know what I would have done if I had believed otherwise.

My heart would start racing when Eucharist would begin. I had never had a proper formal first Communion and had not been confirmed. My attendance at catechism was very sporadic. Hangovers have a way of interfering with things like that. I knew that I wasn't *supposed* to take Communion. I wasn't entitled. I needed it so desperately. I would ask Jesus to forgive me and explain that I didn't know what to do to fix things.

Often the prayers included my tears as part of the petition. I would ask Mary to pray for me and to help explain to Jesus, what I had no words for.

As the Priest put the host on my tongue, my life would change for a while. I was with Jesus. He loved me so much that he died for me. I could never comprehend the depth of such love; I grapple with the concept to this day. But it kept me alive. It was a place in me that no one could touch. He was with me, indeed deep within me. Thank God I didn't know that people would try to take that away from me in the future. I didn't need to know that yet.

When I came out as a gay teenager, I was very aware of where I stood in the church, and that was outside. I was certainly not welcome in the sanctuary, and forbidden from the table. The Sacraments belonged to those worthy of them, and I was not. I was ridiculed and looked at with disgust. I remember once when I was eighteen at St. Mary Magdalen's hearing a woman say under her breath to her husband, "He's a fag." She had just taken Communion. So I did what I had to do to survive, I left the church.

Conveniently I found another deity, compulsion and addiction. It would serve me well; it didn't want much in return for Nirvana, just my health, my freedom and my life. I was lead to recovery, and learned a new relationship with God. It started in meetings, moved to Unitarianism, lead to reclaiming my Christianity at Metropolitan Community Church, to reclaiming my love of the Eucharist and the liturgy as an Episcopalian.

Continued on next page.

Continued from page 5 (A Boy and His Church).

I finally was confirmed by the way. Some of you may have even been there. It felt great to reaffirm my baptism and my faith. Eucharist is again the most intimate moment in my life. One by one I have reclaimed the Sacraments. Sheepishly at times. You see although my relationship with God is flourishing, my relationship with the church is still fragile. I don't trust it. It feels much like my family of origin.

I have always been a second-class citizen in my church. Never worthy of all of the Sacraments. It was a week or two after Jeffrey and I heard about Gene Robinson being raised up to the Episcopate that we came to Trinity. A year later we joined the Trinity community.

Imagine the visceral reaction we felt after hearing the convention's response to the Windsor report. The emotions have ranged from anger to pain, confusion, rebellion and disdain. I felt like my 12-year-old-self, heart racing as I walked down to Communion. Still not worthy of the Sacraments.

I'm sure you have seen that 12 year-old-boy I've told you about. He is never very far away. He's the one doing the fancy stuff with the thurible on holy days and feasts, he is there at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner wearing Spongebob Mardi Gras beads, He's the one with the rosary who still talks to Mary before Mass. And he still wonders, "Will I ever be completely welcome in the Church?"

Bensons Write October Meditations For Forward Day by Day

After using and discussing the meditations in Forward Movement's *Day by Day* as part of Morning Prayer most mornings for several years, Virginia and George Benson began to wonder if they couldn't write some themselves. Both had written for church publications before; Forward Movement had published a couple of George's books, and Virginia was acquainted with the editor through her work as Communications Officer for the Diocese of Missouri, so their query to him resulted in a quick assignment to write the meditations for the month of October, 2006.

As is often the case with writers and deadlines, the year-ahead date for submission of the work was

Vestry Update

By Margaret Emert

The July Vestry Meeting of Trinity Episcopal Church was opened with prayer. Georgia Johnston reported for the Environment and Spirituality Committee. A resolution to establish a paper recycling dumpster on Trinity's grounds was presented and approved. The Environmental Committee will have a part of the new, expanded bulletin board in the South Parish Hall. The committee is looking into purchasing a set-back thermostat for energy conservation.

The Rev. Anne Kelsey notified the vestry that Trinity Church will be honored at Christ Church Cathedral on Oct. 22. Jeff Wunrow confirmed that Ann Watts is willing to serve as co-chair of the strategic planning committee along with Willie Meadows. The Welcome Committee has met and begun gathering information on newcomers' experiences at Trinity Church. Plans are in the works for a Fall Talent Show. Several positions of leadership have been filled.

The Vestry and Organ Committee will be meeting together as the next step in procuring a new organ. The need for a new sanctuary use policy was discussed. The Vestry approved the funds to fix the library floor and remove a tree that was damaged in the recent storm. A policy of grievance procedures for employees of Trinity Church was approved. The July Vestry meeting ended with Compline.

upon them before they knew it. By dint of a lot of midnight oil and writing furiously while on vacation in Bermuda, the work was done at last. Some of it is in a "he said, she said" kind of format, since early in their time together George had a strong position as an Old Testament Freudian, while Virginia was mostly a New Testament Jungian. That made for some interesting pillow talk and fueled many of the responses to the days' lectionary.

It is hoped that the meditations will generate further thoughts of your own. But if you're tempted to follow with your own meditations, be warned that it's harder than you think to choose from among the readings and write something intended to be meaningful in 200 words, but it's well worth the work.

Editor's Note: Congratulations and thanks.

Trinity Annual Talent Show and Potluck Dinner Set for September 16

by Bill Ader



Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm followed by Talent Show at 7:00 pm. Let's see some new faces along with the old hands at this year's show. If you sing, dance, play a musical instrument, do magic, juggle, or fancy yourself a stand-up comedian, contact the parish office to book your act now!



If you're not a performer, just come and enjoy the show and fellowship at the potluck. If you need a reason to come, we've got ten of 'em below!

Top Ten Reasons to Attend the Trinity Talent Show and Potluck Dinner

10. Valet Parking (B.Y.O.V.)
9. For all you Shakespeare fans, no Shakespeare!
8. Let's face it: Your Saturday nights have been free ever since they cancelled "Gunsmoke."
7. Most acts now in 3-D and living color.
6. Only opportunity during the year to heckle from your pew.
5. Surely, the clock is ticking for something in your fridge—unload it at the potluck!
4. Ader's act this year to feature new lemon-fresh scent.
3. Will we see you, in September, or lose you, to a summer love?
2. Nine out of ten dentists recommend the Trinity Talent Show.

And the Number 1 reason to attend the Trinity Talent Show and Potluck Dinner:

WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE.

Social Work Professor to Speak

By Steve Turner

Mark your calendars and save Tuesday evening, October 3, 2006 when Trinity Food Ministry will present Mark Rank, Herbert S. Hadley Professor of Social Welfare in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, in a lecture on the nature of American poverty. Dr. Rank has become known as a national leader and frequent key note speaker on the subject of American poverty. In his recent book, *One Nation, Underprivileged*, he debunks many of the common myths about poverty and addresses the political and economic systems of our nation which keep folks poor.

Serving the poor is our parish's most significant outreach ministry. Professor Rank will give us a framework to reflect upon and deepen our understanding of those we serve and perhaps widen our vision of how we can serve the poor. Please invite your friends and colleagues. We would like to fill the church for the lecture. The lecture will be at Trinity at 7 p.m.

*Lisa Carpenter
and*

*Duncan Dean McArthur
request the honor of your presence
at the celebration and
blessing of our marriage*

*Saturday, September 30, 2006
one o'clock in the afternoon*

*Trinity Episcopal Church
600 North Euclid Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri*

*Cake and champagne following
South Parish Hall*

Trinity Episcopal Church

600 North Euclid
P.O. Box 4740
St. Louis, MO 63108

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<p>Trinity Mission Statement</p> <p>Trinity is a progressive Episcopal church where our commitment to the radical gospel of Christ calls us to worship God, welcome the seeker, sustain the faithful, and serve those in need.</p>	<p>Rector: The Rev. Anne Kelsey Affiliated Clergy: The Rev. Michael Randolph The Rev. William Baker</p> <p>Phone: 314.361.4655 Fax: 314.367.3552 E-mail: trinity-cwe@sbcglobal.net web: trinityepiscopal.net</p> <p>The <i>Trinity Times</i> is published monthly for the parishioners and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Missouri</p>
<p>Holy Eucharist</p> <p>Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Rite I and 10:30 a.m. Rite II Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. Thursday: 6:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Vestry</p> <p>2007: Kim Corliss, Nancy Cadenhead, Cheryl Sharpe, Jeff Wunrow 2008: Jim Andris, David Crawford, Gil Fisher, Bill Layher 2009: Martha Bradley, Anne Hennig, Ida McCall, Matthew Owings</p>



Saintly Sightings

By Margaret Emert

John Henry Hobart (September 14, 1775–September 12, 1830) was the third Episcopal bishop of New York. Bishop Hobart was a powerhouse of energy and a very effective leader in the early nineteenth century.

During a time when most men were reserved even with their families, he was warm and congenial with all. He knew all the clergy in the church generally, and in his own diocese he knew the background and families of all his priests. His friends adored him and even his enemies credited him with frankness and fearlessness. Always full of vigor and excitement, he took the diocese of New York from 26 clergy at the

beginning of his episcopate to 133 clergy by his death. John Henry Hobart founded two institutions: a college in Geneva, New York and General Theological Seminary in New York City. While looking after the Diocese of New York, he also served as rector of Trinity Church, New York. Bishop Hobart organized one of the most impressive missionary efforts the American Church has ever seen. He thought nothing of traveling 2,000 miles for a winter visit to the far reaches of western New York State or traveling 4,000 miles in more seasonal weather.

At the age of 55, John Henry Hobart died while on a trip visiting his diocese. The funeral took place in New York with a procession estimated at nearly 3,000. He is buried under the chancel of Trinity Church, New York.

We thank you for your devoted servant, John Henry Hobart. Grant that all those with his faith and vigor of mind may open all to your message and mission.