



## Notes for the Journey

BY THE REV. ANNE KELSEY

“A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’” *Isaiah 40:3*

For untold numbers of Christians these words mark a turn of the heart towards Bethlehem and the birth of the infant savior, which is celebrated as the feast of Christmas. The text tells of a voice, which doesn't just speak – it cries. Unlike a mere spoken word, a cry carries with it a demand for attention. A cry is full of emotion, whether of sorrow and pain, or happiness and joy. We stop what we're doing when we hear a cry, whether a human cry or the cry of a bird or animal. We pause whatever it is we're doing to listen with heightened awareness for what will come next. Surely, something will follow.

Preparation for the incarnation, the coming of Christ as a human being into this world, this conflicted and confusing inn begins with a cry for attention from a hidden voice. Sometimes during the Advent season it's difficult to hear this voice over the turmoil of commerce and the demands of work and family. The culture which has confused the incarnation of God with the material goods exchanged in his name is often loud and noisy.

The voice from heaven isn't the only one crying out at this time; the hearts of humans everywhere cry for peace, for justice, for reconciliation, healing, and renewal. When we risk being quiet long enough to hear the desire of our own souls, we may find ourselves in tears at the promise of the Christ Child in the face of our overwhelming

needs. At this time we dare to look into the darkness of our own lives and find that what we want is not more stuff but the mercy and grace that only God can impart. We want the Prince of Peace to bring reconciliation within our families and an end to war between nations. We want the Savior to come and deliver us not only from the physical ills that afflict us but also from the hardness of our hearts. We want the Teacher to give us the answers to all the difficult questions that dog our heels. What we want is promised in a vulnerable infant, born so poor he must dispense grace from a feedbox in a stable.

Who can say how grace will come? We put ourselves over and over again in a place of opening to God's possibilities, to the redemption of hope. This means honoring the search for the savior by entering into the quiet and the darkness of longing for the holy one through prayer, worship, and fellowship with other seekers. So may we all be surprised by grace, and joy, in Christ Jesus.

Blessings,

*Anne+*

### **Christmas Services**

#### **Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. Family Service

10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

#### **Christmas Day**

One Service at 10:30 a.m.



# Anne Rice Comes to Trinity

By Larry Sather

Anne Rice's new novel, *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt* is now in the Trinity library for you to read this Advent. It concerns the early life of Jesus, age 7-8. The book concludes with Anne Rice describing what led her to write this book. In a KMOX interview, she said she intends to research and write further about Jesus' life. Rice gave me a new and welcome "existential" understanding of the Incarnation.

I have agreed to serve my first term as librarian — Advent to Advent, and then we shall reevaluate. The library has books covering what approaches the full range of the Church's concerns from Biblical studies, to history, to the meaning of specific doctrines, to discussion of practical problems to music. Let's use it!

*Editor's Note: The newsletter editor recently heard another parishioner make the comment that we have an excellent library. Thank you Larry for your hard work!*

## Christmas Carols' Quiz

Submitted by Gil Fischer

1. At the zenith of the habitat
2. Endocarp vesicated in a configuration
3. Small city in Judea
4. Colorless yule time
5. Singular yearning for twin interior incisors
6. Righteous darkness
7. Loyal followers advance
8. Weather: cloudless; arrive time: 2400 hours
9. Far off in a feeder
10. Array the corridors

## Answers: Christmas Carols' Quiz

10. Deck the Halls
9. Away in a Manger
8. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
7. O Come All Ye Faithfull
6. O Holy Night
5. All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth
4. White Christmas
3. O Little Town of Bethlehem
2. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
1. Up on the Housetop

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Please pray for the following people who have birthdays in December and January. Sending them a card or celebrating with them is encouraged as well!

<i>December Birthdays</i>	<i>Date</i>
David van Bakergem	1
Jim Andris	3
Martha Baker	6
Justin Worland	11
Carolyn Jean Weber	12
Bob Barrett	17
Joe Palecek	17
Vander Corliss	18
Jennifer Mueller	19
Bill Layher	20
Matthew Owings	22
Bill Mayhan	23
Sandra Knaebel	25
Martha Ficklen	25
Nancy Cadenhead	26
Charles Gentry	30

<i>January Birthdays</i>	<i>Date</i>
Susie Anderson	1
Mary Seager	1
Jeanie Ader	2
Lisa Carpenter	3
Glenda Winman	4
Willmeda (Billie) Harris	5
Mary Ann McKay	6
Kate Worland	8
Payton Crump	8
Greg Smith	10
Azaria Cooper	10
Alexandra Ruth Swanson-Harker	11
Eli Hale	12
Julie Hale	12
Bill Ader	14
Johnetta Nelson	17
Jane Edwards	18
Fritzi Baker	22
Dale Anderson	23
Susan Adams	23
Gloria Winston	25
Carmelita Krug	25
Peter Thacher	26
Mary Ellen Anderson	28
Lucy Hale	29
Ed Riedel	30

## Meet Nora and Rolly

By Helen Shultz-Kamadulski

Nora and Rolly Peterson are relative newcomers to St. Louis and to Trinity Episcopal Church. This "reporter" sat down with Rolly and Nora over lunch a few weeks back to visit with them and hear their story. What follows is a short profile to help Trinity folks get to know them a bit better.

The Petersons moved from San Diego, California, to St. Louis a year ago in August. They relocated to St. Louis in order to be close to Nora's daughter Donna, who is married with a growing family. Rolly works as an accountant at a Presbyterian Children's Services and Nora keeps the home fires burning and is part-time nanny to her three granddaughters ages 9, 7 and 2 1/2. The youngest was adopted from China.

Rolly was born and grew up in Hamilton, Montana. He attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, and graduated with a B.A. in Accounting. He later received his Masters degree from Seattle University and eventually completed an 18-month course of study resulting in a Certification in Financial Planning. Rolly's career for 37 years was in partnership with his father in an accounting business they owned in Hamilton. Rolly has two children from his first marriage. His son, Carl, is married and has two children-a seven-year-old girl and a four-year-old boy. His daughter, Lillian, is married with two stepchildren and a brand new baby boy.

Nora was born and grew up in the Everett, Washington, area. She graduated with a B.A. and Masters, both in English, from Washington State University. In addition to being married and raising two daughters Nora worked in the field of education. She carved out a niche for herself working one-on-one and in small groups as a tutor with students Junior High age through adult. She tutored students who had learning disabilities, gifted students who were applying to competitive schools, and taught a class to men and women who were attempting to get into the work force. She also worked for a time as a housemother at a college. Nora's other daughter is named Windy (changed from Wendy in high school). She is married with two children, a boy and a girl, and lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Rolly and Nora met in 1996 in Spokane, Washington, at Rolly's son's wedding. They started dancing at the reception and, as Rolly said, "We've been dancing ever since." At the time of their meeting Rolly was still living in Hamilton, Montana, and Nora was living about 50 miles north of Seattle in the Smoky Point area. In order to continue the dance they started at Rolly's son's wedding, they flew back and forth visiting each other until 16 months later they married in a small ceremony in Nora's home. She played the piano while he sang "Love Me Tender" and "Can I Have This Dance For The Rest of My Life?"

After marrying they lived in Montana for a few years until Rolly left his accounting business and he and Nora moved to San Diego where they were looking for adventure. They decided to be house parents and found an opening at San Diego State University. They stayed in the position for one school year and at that time decided that they'd had enough of that particular adventure. Nora's mother had come with them to San Diego and was living in an assisted living setting. After leaving the house parent position, Nora's mother lived with Nora and Rolly for the next two years. During this time Rolly and Nora found and began attending Christ Episcopal Church in Coronado, California. The church had an open-minded and progressive attitude and Nora and Rolly found that they felt very much at home there.

When Rolly and Nora moved to St. Louis to be close to Nora's daughter and her family they were looking for a church like Christ Episcopal Church. After some searching they found themselves here at Trinity. They wasted no time becoming an active part of the Trinity family. They are part of the rotation for Ushers at the Sunday 10:30 service. They also became official members at a Confirmation/Reception ceremony at Christ Church Cathedral in May. Though married for 7 1/2 years Rolly and Nora still affectionately refer to themselves as newlyweds. We at Trinity hope to have these newlyweds with us for a long time to come.

## Past and Present Come Together

By Jan Parker

On November 5, 2005, Louis and I had just finished watching our son Alex Gerteis run in the State Cross Country meet held in Jefferson City. As we were waiting for one of Alex's teammates to be awarded a medal for making "All State" by placing in the top 25 of all the runners in his class, we heard an announcement and a story of previous runners who were presenting the medals and trophies. To our surprise Ron Gregory's name was called. I asked Joan Gregory to have Ron share with us this amazing bit of history.

On Saturday, November 5, 2005, the 1500 Cross Country runners participating in the eight different division races of this year's state competition and approximately 8,000 spectators got a little more than they bargained for. On hand to pass out the 280 medals and the 32 trophies to the individual finishers and top teams were the members of the 1955 State Champion Cross Country Team, Ron Gregory and teammate Robert Coburn.

The Sumner High School Cross Country team won the 1955 State Championship, and Ron Gregory was the individual State Champion! In addition to winning the individual championship in 1955, he was also the individual winner in 1954 and became State Cross Country Champion when he repeated the feat in 1956. This also tied the national high school record for three consecutive wins.

In a brief interview, Ron Gregory stated that he was amazed at how much the State Championship had grown since 1955. That year 500 runners participated in one race rather than division races based on school size. He also noted that girls did not run Cross Country in the 50s. The fact that the 2005 meet was held at the Oak Hill Golf Course in Jefferson City was a good indication that Cross Country has definitely arrived as a varsity sport.

Jim Conway, cross Country Coach of the Kansas City's Pesao High School, was instrumental in getting Ron Gregory and the Sumner team to participate in the race in Jefferson City. Mr. Conway also formulated the Dick and Ron Gregory Invitational Cross Country meet, held in Kansas City. This year celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> running of this race in honor of the Gregory Brothers.

## Thursday Afternoons in the Trinity Food Pantry

By Kate Worland

I had long wished to serve in the Trinity Food Ministry (TFM), but work and intimidation kept me from it. Semi-retired, I took the opportunity to substitute on Thursday afternoons during the summer. I was afraid that the needs of the people would break my heart or, worse, disgust me. I was afraid that people would importune me and I'd feel guilty for not giving everything I had. I was afraid of poverty and want. Little did I realize how impoverished I myself was.

I now find Thursday Afternoons an uplifting part of my week, something that makes a difference in the world. More importantly, I

find that my fears were baseless. People are dignified.

Some come in outfits, neatly pressed and obviously their best. They hold their heads up most of the time. Sometimes a client offers to help the church. When told they can have as much bread as they want, they take just a package or two. Folks initiate conversation about all sorts of topics. People are engaging. I was touched at the concern of each and every client the week Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. Here were people in need themselves who worried about others. I was uplifted by the up-beat attitude of people coming in the rain to get their monthly groceries.

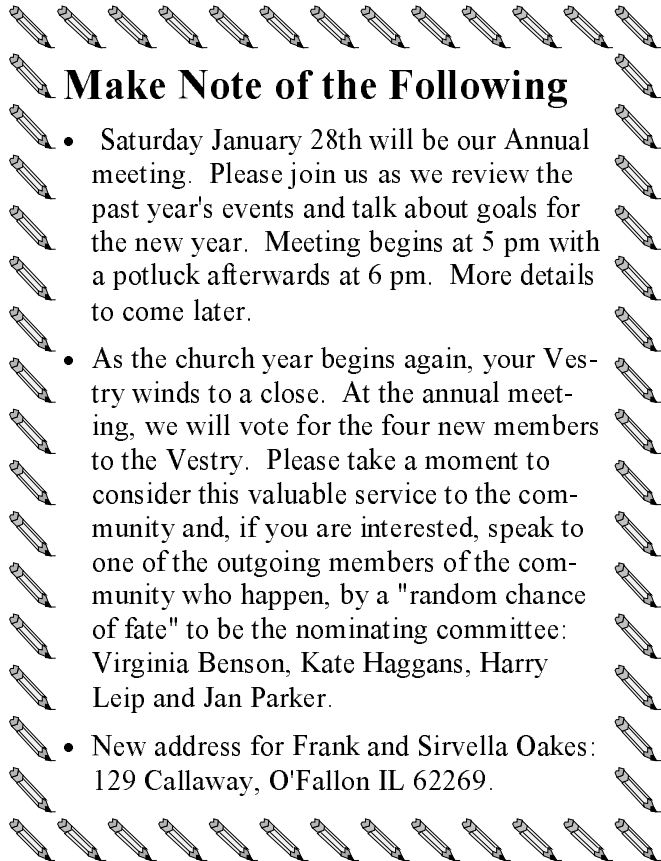
I was surprised by the enthusiasm for the Cardinals baseball team. A former bellhop at the Marriott was hoping for an I-55 World Series between St. Louis and Chicago. People are endearing. One very elderly woman, walking slowly across the floor under her red flowered hat, had a huge smile on her face. She'd been housebound since February, and her neighbor didn't follow through on promises to drive her to TFM. This was the first time she'd been out after her heart attack.

*(Continued top of next page.)*

*(Thursday Afternoon Continued)*

One woman was very pleased that her 35-year-old husband, who has terminal lung cancer, was feeling better. "I quit my job to care for him. The doctors said that he had just a few months to live." Then she proudly said, "That was a year ago and he's still living. I won't always need the service, then I want to do something to help this food pantry." A poignant statement.

People are grateful. Greeted with a how are you, one lady always says, "I'm blessed," as she shuffles in her mother afflicted with Alzheimer's. Nearly always they smile and uplift voices as they depart to say, "Thank you and have a good evening." I'm trying to explain how thankful I am to have the TFM experience. My inner world contains new and wonderful people in it. I'm no longer afraid, although I still wish I could make it all better for the clients. I still wish we could offer more services. I still hate having to say no. But, I am grateful for the bounty of the earth and of this parish.



**Make Note of the Following**

- Saturday January 28th will be our Annual meeting. Please join us as we review the past year's events and talk about goals for the new year. Meeting begins at 5 pm with a potluck afterwards at 6 pm. More details to come later.
- As the church year begins again, your Vestry winds to a close. At the annual meeting, we will vote for the four new members to the Vestry. Please take a moment to consider this valuable service to the community and, if you are interested, speak to one of the outgoing members of the community who happen, by a "random chance of fate" to be the nominating committee: Virginia Benson, Kate Haggans, Harry Leip and Jan Parker.
- New address for Frank and Sirvella Oakes: 129 Callaway, O'Fallon IL 62269.

## Never Cease Praying

*Please include in your prayers this month the following:*

***Those who are sick or recovering from surgery:***

Chuck Orme-Rogers, inner ear infection  
Georgia Johnston, radiation for cancer  
Dorothy Carpenter, shattered wrist  
Bob Emert, sprained ankle.

***Parishioners with ongoing challenges:***

Margo Skinner, lung disease.  
Jackie Judd, mobility problems.  
Kayte Foxworth, homebound.  
Margaret Kane, homebound.  
Sirvella and Frank Oakes, Frank has Alzheimer's  
Camilleann Nelson, with M.S.  
Emma Johnson, elderly/living at Parkside Towers.  
Dee Scott, mobility problems.  
Charlene Wright, mourning.  
Mary Moore, vision difficulties.  
Betsey Gardner, bursitis and peripheral neuropathy, which are painful and make it difficult for her to get around. Would appreciate short calls from well-wishers.

***Family Members:***

Gregg Work— Warren Work's son, recovering from arm surgery.  
Geoff Kraft - Margo Skinner's son, stroke  
Dorothy Fisher - Gil Fisher's mother, fall  
Rebecca Turner - Steve Turner's mother.  
Thelma Agnes Sather – Larry Sather's mother, in hospice care.  
Adele Smith – Gregory Smith's mother.  
Gwenell Osby - Lamont Hopson's mother, cancer.  
Rubye Ann Johnson - Mary Ellen Anderson's sister, in failing condition with Alzheimer's.

***Friends:***

Mary O'Neal - friend of Joan Dunbar.  
Betsy Roth – former Trinitarian with Parkinson's.

***Deceased:***

Let Light Perpetual Shine Upon Them: Agnes Mayhan, Bill Mayhan's mother.

***Thanksgiving:*** Birth of a grandson to Stephen Nichols—Alexander and Mom Stephanie.

# ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY AT TRINITY

## Worship

### Wednesdays in Advent

6:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist and Meditation

### Thursdays in Advent

6:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

### Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th

4:00 p.m.

Blessing of the  
Christmas Crèche,  
Family Service

with Children's homily

10:30 p.m.

Poems for peace with carols  
for Christmas,  
Solemn Choral Eucharist

### Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25th

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

### New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

### Feast of the Epiphany

Friday, January 6

7:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

### Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 8

8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist  
and presentation  
of gifts by children

## EVENTS

### THE JESSE TREE

The symbols of the Jesse Tree will be presented each Sunday in Advent as part of the Children's Homily. This will allow all of us to learn more about the meaning behind some of the symbols. The entire congregation will have the opportunity to decorate the Jesse Tree on the third Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

### DIOCESAN LESSONS AND CAROLS AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

The Trinity Choir will participate in this lovely traditional service, along with choirs from around the diocese. This is the first year Trinity will be represented, so be sure to come early for a good seat. The cathedral is located at 1210 Locust Street in downtown St. Louis.

### ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Worship, an Advent meditation, and time for personal quiet time and reflection plus lunch will give participants an opportunity to prepare spiritually for Christmas. The rector will lead this retreat, which will be held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The cost is \$17, and scholarships are readily available. Please register with the parish office as soon as possible, and speak to the rector concerning scholarship aid.

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m.

You are invited to help decorate the church for Christmas: stay after the later service or come back from the early service and join other Trinitarians for fellowship.

## EDUCATION

### SUNDAY NOON FORUMS IN EPIPHANY

*The Changing Face of God*: A series based on lectures taped at Washington National Cathedral. Each 22-minute video features a different theologian, which will be followed by facilitated discussion. Light refreshments will be served and child care will be available.

January 15 Karen Armstrong: The God of Imaginative Compassion

January 22 Marcus Borg: The God Who is Spirit

January 29 James Cone: God is the Color of Suffering

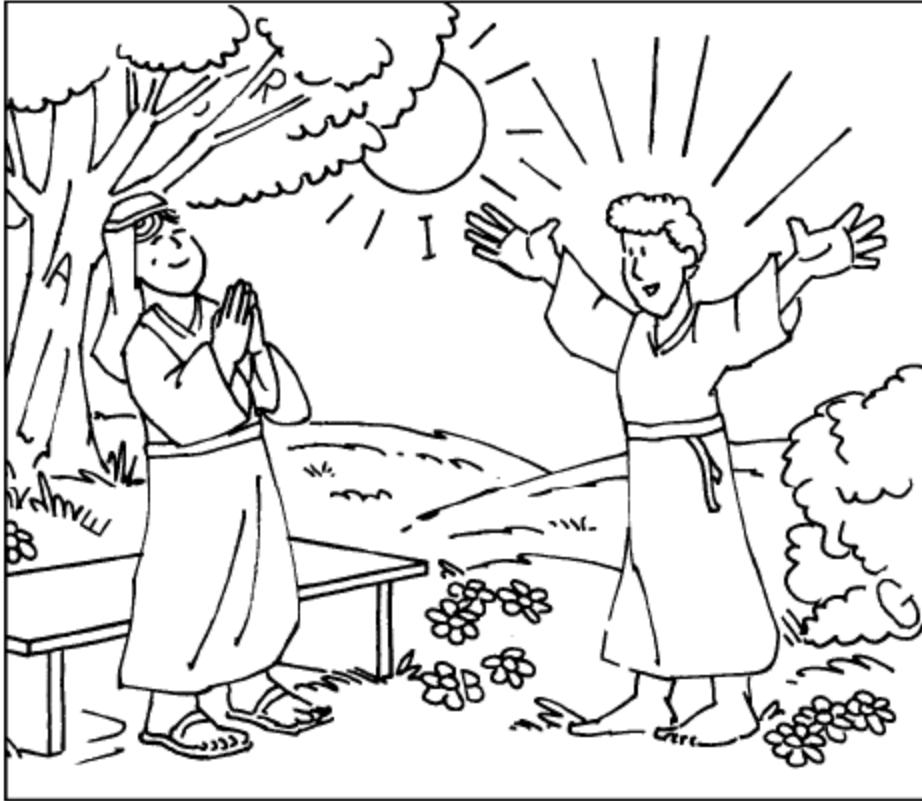
February 5 Jack Miles: A Complicated God

February 12 Andrew Sung Park: The God Who Needs our Salvation

# Kid's Page

God sent a special messenger to talk to Mary!  
It was the angel Gabriel.

Find these letters in the picture below.  
G A B R I E L



**Draw a Picture of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus Below:**



## Trinity Episcopal Church

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St. Louis, MO 63108

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### 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.  
(4th Thursday is Morning Prayer)

*The Trinity Times* is published monthly for the parishioners and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Missouri

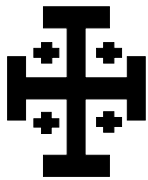
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**The Rev. William Baker**

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### *Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry*

**2006:** Virginia Benson, Kate Haggans, Harry Leip, Jan Parker  
**2007:** Kim Corliss, Nancy Cadenhead, Cheryl Sharpe, Jeff Wunrow  
**2008:** Jim Andris, David Crawford, Gil Fisher, Bill Layher

## Saintly Sightings



On December 29<sup>th</sup> we remember the English martyr Thomas Becket. Thomas Becket came from a middle-class family and was well educated. He entered the household of Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury, who was a good friend of the young Henry II. On Theobald's advice, Henry appointed Thomas Becket chancellor. He lived a magnificent life as intimate friend of the king. Upon Theobald's death, Henry nominated Thomas Becket archbishop, hoping to curb the growth of church power by nominating his friend.

Becket was determined to be as good an archbishop as he had been chancellor and immediately changed his way of life. He abandoned his worldliness for a life of extreme asceticism and

began to work for the church's interest. As tension between Becket and Henry II mounted, Thomas Becket fled to France hoping to enlist the support of the pope. The quarrel between Becket and Henry II dragged on for six years. In 1170 Becket returned to England where he was quickly murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four knights. St. Thomas' popularity continued through the Middle Ages until his shrine and most probably his remains were destroyed under Henry VIII.

*O Lord, may we, too, work always for the good of the God's people and the church.*

**Editor's Note:** As the church year ends and another one begins, let us remember the saints from Trinity that have gone before us.