

The Trinity Times

AN OASIS PARISH IN THE DIOCESE OF MISSOURI



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 2007

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Notes for the Journey

By The Rev. Anne Kelsey

The Conch King

A clear but windy day in south Florida stirs up rough surf that pounds the outer beaches and sends tourists scurrying to shelter. The weather is really too beautiful to waste staying indoors so we head off to the park at the upper end of the bay. After a long bus ride past expensive shops and huge hotels, after a long walk into the park, we find the concession stand and rent a bright yellow plastic kayak. Eager to explore the marshes and the bay, fortified with water and granola bars, we start out. Mangrove swamps rise up in calm waters and allow leisurely exploration, but out on the bay it is very hard paddling against the wind and waves. After achingly long minutes we finally lurch onto the shore of a tiny island. It is mercifully calm. The warm clear shallows reveal a smooth white sandy bottom unruffled by the weather.

For the moment we are explorers of the island's ecology, inching our feet slowly through warm water, on the lookout for the tidbits of vacation's leisure – shells, pieces of colored glass worn smooth, pebbles, or odd remnants of fishing gear, perhaps a sand dollar. There is no agenda, no purpose, and no clock except the sun overhead. There is no task, nor are there expectations to disappoint or fail. There is only the looking and the seeing, accepting what comes with interest and contentment.

Then the conch appears. At first we can't figure out what it is. It looks like a brown rock, covered in fuzzy brown algae, but it's moving. It looks big, magnified in the water. Even so it's probably almost a foot long from point to point. Its deep orange body ripples out over the sand, tugging the brown shell house along a slow trajectory. At the point of the shell's highest curve a large fan-shaped plant is

anchored securely. This aquatic headdress waves gently as water flows around it, giving the conch a majestic air as it moves slowly over the sand.

It is a scene fit for a prince, a royal exhibition, a demonstration of dignity, self-assurance, and elegance. No king slumping along on a camel under a starlit sky would mistake it for anything less than a peer, a worthy companion on the quest for the infant Christ. Epiphanytide is rising, and we imagine those three wizened old men, and whether they were kings or astrologers is hardly the point. It was a terribly hard journey, with nothing certain at the end. Perhaps they arrived cribside with a fraction of the treasure they'd had at the beginning, a feeble sliver of a gift for the baby king. We are, I know, supposed to do the same thing with our lives.

The conch is both messenger and gift, an ecological harbinger, and a call to worship. Its vibrant color and soft texture are a potent reminder of our own fleshiness and the intimate moments of our bodies naked or needy, and we are almost embarrassed. But the conch, like a human infant, doesn't know shame. It exists fully and gloriously within the realm of its environment, taking its rightful place in the panoply of creation.

King or commoner, conch or human, each holds within it the glory of God, made flesh, made human, made real. God is made known throughout the world in an astonishing array of plant and animal, bird, and fish; in light, color, and sound. In Jesus Christ, God's love draws near to all of creation, close enough to touch, awesome enough to worship.

Epiphany Blessings,

Anne+

Absalom Jones and Richard Allen to be Celebrated on February 3

By Kate Haggans

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 3, and attend The Commission on Dismantling Racism in the annual Absalom Jones/Richard Allen celebration. This year's guest is the Rev. Jayne Jones Oasin, the social justice minister for the national Episcopal Church. Rev. Oasin will lead Dismantling Racism workshops Thursday and Friday, Feb. 1-2, on the scale of provincial and national training events for the Church.

The event, open to all, will celebrate the theme of "Singing the Lord's Song in an Alien Land: Fulfilling the Gospel Imperative in a Multicultural World." It is from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., hosted by St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 110 N. Warson Road, Ladue. Rev. Oasin will preach at both Sunday services at St. Peter's on Feb. 4.

For more information, call Kate Haggans (862.4727 h) or call St. Peter's-Ladue (993.2306).

Make Note of the Following Events

- Saturday, Jan. 6, at 10:30 a.m.: **Chuck Orme-Rogers** will be ordained to the priesthood at Grace Church in Kirkwood located at 514 East Argonne Dr.
- Sunday, Jan. 7: **Epiphany Sunday**: Children of the Sunday School dress as royalty for the offertory procession at the 10:30 a.m. service, bringing gifts of toys to the Christ Child at the altar.
- Tuesday, Jan. 9: **Follow Me & Do This** at Grace Episcopal Church in Kirkwood (see article in column 1).
- Friday, Jan. 12: **"An Inconvenient Truth,"** a movie to be shown at 7:30 p.m. with a noon forum on Sunday, Jan. 14. See page 5.
- Wednesday, Jan. 17: **Celebration of New Ministry** for Sally Weaver, Director of Episcopal City Mission. The celebration will be held at Christ Church Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Food Ministry Report

By Steve Turner

The food pantry is a busy place. A volunteer commented recently, "the shelves were full when we started this afternoon. Look at them now! We have distributed a lot of food." And indeed that is our purpose. We feed an average of 400 people each month, giving each at least four cans of food plus the produce, eggs and margarine. That means we distribute on average 1,600 cans of food each month. Frequently an individual will tell us that he or she does not have cooking facilities – he is homeless or his utilities have been turned off – and cannot use the produce. We accommodate him by giving extra oranges, pudding, peanut butter, crackers and cans with flip top lids. We even give plastic spoons when necessary. And thanks to the volunteers who pick up bread, we always have bread to give.

Many of those who come to the pantry once each month also come to the hot lunch each Sunday. Over a period of time we get to know some of these folks. Mr. E. is older than he looks. He has Parkinson's disease and sometimes his hands shake so badly that he has a hard time lifting his cup of lemonade to his mouth. He told me that he has had Parkinson's for 30 years. He and another man who comes to the hot lunch live in the same boarding house in the west end.

Parishioners often ask what we need in the pantry. We can use about anything you give. Though we do not have room to store clothing, we put out whatever is given and the clothes are gladly taken by our clients. Tuna, cans with flip top lids, toiletries, cans of meat products, toilet tissue, and bars of soap are examples of items frequently asked for by clients.

Annual Meeting is on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 5:00. We will gather for a potluck and then meet to discuss the past year and future plans for Trinity. Please join us for this important event. It won't be the same without you.

Christmas Message 2006

By Katharine Jefferts Schori, The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori is Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church.



[**Episcopal News Service**] God loved us so much that he came to dwell among us, to tent among us in human flesh... There is a wonderful echo there of God's presence in the tent while Israel wandered in the wilderness. The gift of the Incarnation says that God is willing to take on the human tent of flesh and be one with and among us.

That frail tent of flesh proves capable of holding divinity, but also capable of yielding up its spirit. Irenaeus and Athanasius insisted that the gift of Incarnation was that "God became human, that we might become divine." You and I are bearers of the image of God, and you and I share in Incarnation, for Jesus has walked this way before us. God is born in us as well.

The vulnerability of being born in obscurity, to a peasant refugee couple, in an out of the way place, says to us that God is with us in the smallest parts of life -- perhaps a reminder that we, too, may discover God in those humble and unexpected places if we are willing to go in search.

Matthew's story of the wise ones from the east who come searching for this new thing, this remarkable child, is equally a reminder that God's love extends to all, that God comes among us in human form for all humanity, not just for our co-religionists, not just for those who expect God's appearing in the same way we do, and not just in predictable ways at the altar.

Recently I watched and listened to a woman on a bus as she engaged in conversation with a three-year-old boy. The woman asked the child what happens at Christmas, but the boy, though highly verbal, wasn't able to say much. With his parents' apparent agreement, she asked him about Santa Claus, and began to tell him all about waking up on Christmas Day and finding presents. She didn't talk about St. Nicholas on his feast day, or about Jesus and his birth, but she did convey a sense of the wonder and love connected to Christmas.

That is an opening for those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus. It is the kind of invitation heard by the wise ones from the east. Even Santa Claus -- far removed though today's version of the story may be from the holy faithfulness of St. Nicholas -- can be another kind of star leading others to the humble stable where God comes among us. God continues to come among us in humility, God continues to be birthed in fragile opportunities that will need to be nourished and tended by others. The little boy on the bus has had his mind and heart opened to hear the bigger story about Christmas. Now, who will tell the old, old story of God's love to those so ready and eager to hear?

Organ Committee Report

By Barbara Uhlemann

As of mid-December the vestry continues to study the proposal presented by the organ committee and the organ committee continues to gather additional information in response to vestry questions. We hope to have full information to present to the parish early in the new year.

The members of the organ committee are Virginia Benson, Darrell Berg, Kim Corliss, Joyce Daughaday, Gil Fisher, Helen Hendry, James Nacy, Jan Parker, Steve Turner and Barbara Uhlemann, in addition to

Jeff Nall, Organist, Kate Haggans, Chair, and Anne Kelsey, Rector.

Treasurer's Report

By Barbara Uhlemann

As of November 30, 92 percent of the way through the year, pledge income is at 89 percent, overall income is at 92 percent, and parish expenses are at 90 percent of budget, resulting in net income of \$3,200 for the year so far. Trinity Food Ministry expenses for the year to date exceed income by about \$300, which is covered by reserve funds.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Protection and Safekeeping

Kathi McDonald at St. George's College in Jerusalem
Kiri Haggans, serving in the Peace Corps near Osh,
Kyrgyzstan
John Worland, Scott Lehrmann, serving in the military

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

Gwenette
Carolyn
Margo Skinner, lung disease
Nancy – pray for strength and courage

Parishioners with ongoing challenges:

Dee Scott
Kayte Foxworth
Jackie Judd
Margaret Kane
Camilleann Nelson
Emma Johnson
Mary Moore
Betsey Gardner
Betsy Roth
Jeanie Ader

Family Members:

Preston Forester, cousin of Cheryl Sharpe,
Natasha Watts
Joyce Clement, Alexah Strongheart's aunt - cancer
Parker Connor, Kathy van Bakergem's 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:

Walkers, friends of Gil Fisher, family member died
Bill Russell, former Trinitarian – heart surgery.

Penny and Howard Miller, friends of Gil Fisher –
Penny possible breast cancer; Howard bleeding retina.

Wayne Steeves, friend of Gil Fisher - lymphatic cancer
Cindy Greer, friend of Denita Pruitt, son died in motorcycle accident

Randy and Mike, friends of Gil Fisher - dealing with Randy's cancer.

Rose Davis, friend of Joan Dunbar - paranoia.

Mary O'Neal, friend of Joan Dunbar - renal failure, diabetes

Majel Hayes Brumley, former Trinitarian - breast cancer

Mittency Pastard, former Trinitarian - eye problem

Departed

Juanita Miller, cousin of Virginia Benson

Happy Birthday To You !

Happy Birthday to the following people with January birthdays. We give thanks for your life:

January Birthdays	Date
Susie Anderson	1
Jeanie Ader	2
Lisa Carpenter	3
Willmeda (Billie) Harris	5
Kate Worland	8
Payton Crump	8
Greg Smith	10
Azaria Bianka Cooper	10
Alexandra Ruth Swanson-Harker	11
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
Ed Riedel	30

Follow Me and Do This

Forming Eucharist Disciples

How do we faithfully follow Jesus?

Disciples are created when people respond obediently to Jesus' invitation to "Follow me." This following is lifelong, surprising and sacrificial. Following Jesus becomes the shape and direction of our lives. As such, this following is constituted by a variety of habits and attitudes. The St. Louis class is being held at Grace Episcopal Church in Kirkwood.

The Rev. Canon Ralph N. McMichael Jr., Ph.D is the faculty and the class will occur on nine Tuesdays, once a month from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The dates are: Jan. 9, Feb. 6, March 6, April 10, May 8, June 5, July 10, and Aug. 7

The cost is \$350.00 per person. Scholarships are available and childcare is available upon request

For applications or any additional questions, including class materials for missed sessions, contact Cory Hoehn at 314-231-1220 x 1383 or by email at choehn@missouri.anglican.org.

Holy Ground to Receive Award

The Holy Ground Collaborative will be given an award by the Art of Living Foundation on Saturday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the History Museum. It is being honored for work which fosters understanding between diverse religious communities.

Holy Ground is comprised of seven congregations in the Central West End, including Trinity. All are invited to attend the event, which will feature representatives from each congregation in a blessing/speaking collaboration.

"An Inconvenient Truth"

By Georgia Johnston

The Environment and Spirituality Committee welcomes everyone to a showing of Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth" (with popcorn!). We will follow this showing with discussion in a Sunday noon forum. Parishioners and friends are invited to attend either or both:

- Friday, January 12: 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the North Parish Hall. (Showing of the film.)
- Sunday, January 14: Noon Forum Discussion

The CAT Project: Assessing Congregational Vitality

By The Rev. Anne Kelsey

In order to maintain our health, most of us see a physician regularly for a check-up. We may find out that we need glasses to see better or perhaps need to do some particular exercises. In the same way institutions, including churches, need to assess their programs and how the church functions in general in order to help leaders with direction in the future.

Trinity has been selected as one of three parishes in the Diocese of Missouri to participate in a pilot program which will help us understand our church more fully. It is sponsored by The Episcopal Church Center CDO and Holy Cow! Consulting, and is free of charge to us. (CAT means Church Assessment Tool, and CDO means Church Deployment Office.) In conjunction with strategic planning, this will help us understand our strengths and prepare thoughtfully for the future. It is a unique opportunity for members of the congregation to provide input about many aspects of congregational life.

This project utilizes a survey that is completed online. Provisions are made for those who do not have internet access. The survey begins on January 15, 2007 and closes on February 4, 2007.

It will be very important to have as many parishioners as possible complete the survey – those who are here several times a week and those who only come occasionally. Answering the questions will only take about a half an hour of your time, and all the answers will be handled anonymously. While the results of the survey will be shared, only you will know how you responded. So feel free to be candid and open when completing the survey.

I am delighted that Trinity has this opportunity to understand our common life more thoroughly as we engage in the ministry God has given to us all. I look forward with both eagerness and curiosity to the results that will be shared with us.

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Annual Meeting on January 27 at 5:00 p.m.

<p><i>Trinity Mission Statement</i></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><i>Rector: The Rev. Anne Kelsey</i> <i>Affiliated Clergy: The Rev. Michael Randolph</i> <i>The Rev. William Baker</i></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><i>Holy Eucharist</i></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><i>Vestry</i></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

After the Norman invasion of England in 1066, the cruel treatment the English received from their conquerors is well documented. William replaced most of the native Anglo-Saxon bishops with his clergy from Normandy. A notable exception to this was *Wulfstan II*. Wulfstan was born in 1008 in Long Itchington, England to a devoted Christian family. His uncle was the Archbishop of York. Probably because of his uncle's influence Wulfstan studied at several monasteries. After becoming a priest, he was elected Bishop of Worcester. He declined this honor preferring to stay in the monastery and do his work there. Just prior to the Norman invasion, Wulfstan

was again elected bishop and this time accepted the position. After the Conquest he did not hesitate to confront the Norman king, often at great peril to his own well being. He secured some rights for English serfs against their Norman landlords and helped end the practice of selling Englishmen as slaves in Ireland. Wulfstan died in 1095 while engaging in his daily ritual of washing the feet of a dozen poor men.

Almighty God, whose only begotten Son led captivity captive and gave gifts to your people: multiply among us faithful pastors who will give courage to those who are oppressed and held in bondage. Bring us all into the true freedom of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.