

**Trinity
Episcopal
Church**



One in Faith.
Strong in Love.
Bold in Mission.

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Trinity Times

February 2009

NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY

BY THE REV. ANNE KELSEY

When the liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent we expect to hear John the Baptist quoting from the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord." The few short weeks of Advent are the season of preparation, anticipation, and looking ahead to Christmas celebrations. Epiphany arrives without any warning at all, and in the blink of an eye Lent will be upon us. We probably will not feel prepared at all.

We prepare for the birth of Christ but not much to the other points on the liturgical calendar. Those seem just to happen to us, like the hands of a clock ticking off the minutes. Two o'clock in the afternoon will come and go with or without us. Time itself appears to be indifferent.

God's time is different. Here, the month of December is spent preparing for one day. In the same way the whole trajectory of our lives can be understood as one long season of preparation for union with God. We are always preparing for life in Christ, here on earth and on our entrance into eternal life at death. At times of great crisis such as illness, war, or societal stress we become more aware of our own mortality and experience time in a different way. Then we realize that perhaps the things that looked so important don't have the value we thought they did, and things we might have taken for granted are priceless. It's a truism worth repeating that on our deathbeds no one wishes they had spent more time at the office. What will matter to us then is our relationships – with our families, our friends, our communities, and our God.

Ash Wednesday is three weeks away. It seems awfully soon. Perhaps it's time now to read again Paul's message from the Letter to the Romans: "You know what time it is, how it is the moment to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us than when we became believers." Now is the time to prepare – for Lent and for all the days of our lives. Now is the time to ask the questions: What is really important to me? Each day I live is one day closer to the last day. How do I want to spend my time? How do I want to prepare for God?

Blessings,

Anne+

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

FOUR ELECTED TO VESTRY; NEW WARDENS AND DELEGATE NAMED

From a slate of seven, four new members were elected to the Vestry at the 154th Annual Meeting of Trinity Parish on January 31. They are:

Carol Cradock, a member of the parish for five years, recently retired as a study-abroad advisor at UMSL. She volunteers at the Food Ministry and is an offerings counter. She is married to Tom and has three adult children and one-and-a-half grandchildren.

Barbara Uhlemann, veteran parish treasurer, trustee of the parish endowment, leader of committees and projects, and altar server, among other things. She and John are avid travelers and folk dancers and equally avid parents of Anne and grandparents of two.

Al Wiman, a 20-year parishioner recently returned from hiatus, is Vice-President for Public Understanding of Science at the St. Louis Science Center. Previously he was at Webster University and before that served as medicine and science reporter at KSDK and KMOV. He and Glenda have a blended family of several adult children.

Dick Woodhouse has been in the choir for four years and is also involved in the Gateway Men's Chorus. He has had a varied career, mostly in sales, and retired last year to allow more time to be a Cardinals baseball fan.

Alexah Strongheart will move from Junior to Senior Warden and **Dave Hilditch** will serve as Junior Warden. **Lisa Carpenter** will serve as Delegate to the Diocesan Convention. Trustees of the Parish Endowment, **Vander Corliss, Jean Frazee and Barbara Uhlemann**, continue in office.

The required *financial reports and budget* were approved and it was noted that despite the uncertain economy, Trinity's finances are relatively healthy.

The *Strategic Plan*, with specific time-related goals, was presented in its shorter form (the entire document is available for reading in the Library) and will be reviewed and evaluated periodically by the Vestry.

The new organ is expected to be installed in June of this year, with the old one to be removed probably in March and restructuring of the back of the church to follow. Some three-quarters of pledges to the fund are in hand. [See a related article on p. 6 about the organ at New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, which Michael Quimby refurbished just before he began on Trinity's instrument.]

The Rev. Anne Kelsey concluded the meeting with her report, citing accomplishments for the year just past and hopes for the future. The hopes include enrichment of our spiritual lives, increased ministry to children and youth, and signage to make Trinity easier to find both outside and in.

Copies of the Annual Report with expanded information and reports from other parish ministries and groups are available at the back of the church and through the office.

- Virginia Benson

THANK YOU

After an emergency appendectomy four weeks ago I learned first hand the caring nature of the Trinity community. Thank you to everyone who said prayers, brought food, sent cards and flowers, and called just to say hello. Thanks to the clergy who came forward to help with services – David Fly, Bill Baker, Ron Clingenpeel, and Michael Randolph, and to the senior warden, Jan Parker, who kept assuring me that everything was being handled. Thanks for moving the Annual Meeting so I could be with you. It seemed like a very long three weeks and I am so glad to be back, with a very grateful heart.

- Anne Kelsey

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 25

Lent will begin on **February 25** with Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7 p.m.

A **pancake supper** to celebrate **Shrove Tuesday** before the austerity of that season begins is planned for **February 24**. Stay tuned for details in the weekly E-Times.



COMING UP

Celebration of Absalom Jones and Richard Allen

The Diocesan Commission on Dismantling Racism will sponsor its annual celebration of the ministries of Absalom Jones and Richard Allen on **Saturday, February 14, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon**, at St. Peter's Church, 110 North Warson Road, Ladue (at the corner of Warson and Ladue Roads.) The theme of this year's event is From Conflict to Conversation. There will be presentations by: Dr. Kristin Zapalac, State Historic Preservation Office, "A Short History of Living Together/Apart in the St. Louis Region"; Mr. Ronald Hodges, Chair, Steering Committee, Community For Understanding And Healing in Kirkwood; and the Rev. Becky Ragland, Church of the Holy Communion, Webster Groves Clergy Alliance For Racial Equality. For more information and for reservations, please telephone the St. Peter's office, 314/993-2306 before February 12. See Kate Haggans or call her at 314/862-4727 for more information.

Film and Fellowship

Though it's not nominated for Best Picture by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, we still think "Revolutionary Road" is a swell flick. So swell, in fact, that we will discuss it at the Film & Fellowship forum slated, as usual, for the second Tuesday of the month. We'll meet in North Parish Hall at **6:30 p.m.** on **Feb. 10**. Bring food and opinions to share.

Patsy Degener calls Richard Yates's 1961 novel "bleak, bleak, bleak," but is the film? What does it say about the lives of men and women in the Fifties, about an hour and a half before Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique*? Is the story more about April or about Frank? And what's with the real estate agent? More curious, what's with her son: Is he some kind of symbol of something? What does "Revolutionary Road" say about our lives?

Bonus question: What famous writer lived in the same house as Yates on Revolutionary Road, 25 miles north of Manhattan?

To answer a question raised at January's discussion of "Doubt" (the movie), the play, entitled "Doubt: A Parable," was written in 2004 and won the Pulitzer Prize in 2005.

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

We see them first as young and hopeful. We see them as searching for themselves, she as an actress, he -- he doesn't know what he wants. When they find each other at a party, it bodes well, but the next time we see them, they are married, and he is trying to be sympathetic to her poor performance in a regional play. She says, "Leave me alone," but he doesn't.

The Wheelers live in the Fifties. She, named April and as hopeful as spring, settles into the role of housewife and mother demanded of middle-class women after World War II. He, named Frank but anything but, settles into a job that is boring but pays well. It pays so well that the couple can move to the suburbs. He joins the legion of hatted men standing on train platforms going into the city to work. She joins -- well, she doesn't join anything, because as Betty Friedan was to point out soon, women isolated in their kitchens became a danger unto themselves as their energies curled up and died.

Along the way, April has an idea: they should shed all this and go to France. Just sell everything. She'll get a job as a secretary to support him as he takes time to write or to find himself. And just about that time, he gets offered a promotion, something that would make his father proud. And just about that time, she discovers she's pregnant. Again.

"Revolutionary Road" does not end well as a plot but it ends in truth. As a film, "Revolutionary Road" succeeds in every way at unbalancing us, at reminding us why the Fifties were not all that peaceful because lives were lost in the undeclared war for selfhood -- for both sexes.

Leonardo DiCaprio does a sterling job as Frank Wheeler, in everything from posture to nuance. Kate Winslet is absolutely stunning as April, looking one way, feeling another. Winslet's long, final scene is definitive. Kathy Bates, the real estate agent full of words like "scoot" and wearing hair-dos from pincurls, embodies the busy businesswoman, and Michael Shannon plays her bipolar son with scary strength.

Sam Mendes, who directed another suburban story, "American Beauty" in 1999, keeps "Revolutionary Road" true to Richard Yates' book. He shows men in fedoras advancing on the city like cavalry, similar to scenes from urban workers in "A Thousand Clowns." He

allows quick flashbacks, but basically "Revolutionary Road" moves steadily forward, showing both surface and roiling, unbalancing undertow.

Book Club

A discussion of *The Shack*, by William P. Young, described as "theological fiction," will be featured at the February meeting at **7 p.m. on Feb. 21**.

For March the selection will be Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals*. Check with Dolores Friesen, Hazel Kirk or Ellie Chapman for more details.

TRINITY FOOD MINISTRY

[*Editor's Note:* Steve Turner shot his wad providing updates and statistics for the Annual Report, so this Thursday volunteer agreed to write the column for this month.]

Like Trinity parish itself, the clients who come to our food program are a varied and colorful lot.

New clients, used to rejection, may arrive apprehensive, not believing that they really can get food for free and without hassle. Some of them are so well put together that you wonder about the circumstances that bring them to us. They come at the urging of friends or family, embarrassed to ask, but they receive our offerings with gratitude, even tears, and often with blessings for us and our ministry. There are more of these now that the economy has tightened its grip on what used to be more stable socio-economic levels.

There are the old hands, who sail in with their i.d.'s at the ready and whose names we know without looking them up (although we look them up anyway so that their visit is recorded.) They are variously matter-of-fact, cheery, grateful, sometimes sullen (I'd be sullen, too, if I had to come asking for food!)

Some have obvious disabilities, some those that are less so. A couple of our regulars are well-spoken and only when they get into extended conversation do we realize that those conversations don't exactly have a logical flow. There are folks with no cooking facilities who only can use canned goods. There are some who don't like cabbage but really want something else instead. When we have things like detergent and toilet paper we add them to the bag. Several people collect food for

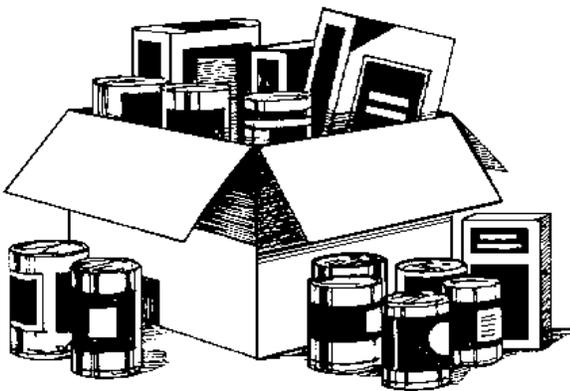
elderly and incapacitated relatives; some clients come to the door in wheelchairs.

Of course, there are a few “gamers,” who have learned to work the system and try that, generally without effect, on director Steve Turner, whose instincts, along with those of Curtis Thomas, our sexton, are keen and pretty close to infallible. On occasion, the disruptive have been asked to leave. Steve can be a soft touch, though, when that’s appropriate. Certain clients are allowed to rummage in The Box, which usually contains lots of pumpkin, cranberry sauce, and assorted broths, along with oddities like anchovies and the occasional can of dog food, none of which are popular with most of the clients. One guy apparently tours the food pantries and comes in to trade with Steve things he’s picked up elsewhere for items he’d rather have

One of the reasons that there is such good fellowship among the Food Ministry volunteers is that we daily experience “There, but for the Grace of God, go I.” We meet our God in those we meet at the Food Ministry.

- Virginia Benson

Warm winter clothing is distributed Tuesday – Thursday during the food pantry. If you have sweaters, hats, gloves, jackets, coats and scarves you no longer use they will be greatly appreciated. New socks are always welcome this time of the year as well.



SAINTLY SIGHTINGS



By Margaret Emert

The *Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple* celebrates an early episode in the life of Jesus and is remembered on February 2nd. Ancient Jewish custom prescribed that a woman who had borne a male child should, forty days after giving birth, come to the Temple to be purified. Furthermore, it was customary to present publicly every male child to God in the Temple.

Therefore, Mary and Joseph went up to the Temple for her Purification and Jesus’ Presentation. Upon bringing Jesus into the temple, the Holy Family encountered Simeon the Righteous. The prophetess Anna was also in the Temple and offered prayers and praise to God for Jesus and spoke of Jesus’ role in the redemption of Israel. The Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that “he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.” Simeon took the infant Jesus in his arms and praised God in the words of the familiar *Nunc dimittis* or Cantic of Simeon, which prophesied the redemption of the world by Jesus. In this cantic, Simeon proclaimed Jesus “a light to lighten the Gentiles.”

For this reason candles are often blessed and lit and carried in procession through the streets on the night of this feast. This observance is still called “Candlemas” in England. A reading of the *Nunc dimittis* (BCP) is an appropriate reflection for this day.

Almighty God, we pray that as your Son our Savior was presented in the temple before Simeon, so we who are the temple of His Holy Spirit may come before you with pure and clean hearts.

Before Its Debut, Cathedral Organ Has a Sound Check

[Sent by Margaret Kitto and Helen Hendry, condensed and edited from James Barron's article in the New York Times, Nov. 25, 2008.]

Bruce Neswick slid onto the organ bench, loosened his tie and started improvising — first some chords, then a couple of runs, then something meditative that sounded very much like a prelude for a Sunday morning worship service.

Mr. Neswick's improvisations were the first music played on the organ at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine since a fire in December 2001.

The impromptu recital by Mr. Neswick, the director of cathedral music at St. John the Divine, was another milestone in the cathedral's \$41 million comeback from the fire. It was also brief preparation for a rededication service that included a piece by Ralph Vaughan Williams that was first performed at the cathedral 67 years ago.

The organ's 8,500 pipes had been making sounds for the last few weeks as the instrument has gone through what Douglass Hunt, the cathedral's organ curator and the project consultant on the restoration, called the three T's — "tuning, testing and troubleshooting."

The tuning went on before and after Mr. Neswick's 20 minutes at the console, with a tuner named Joe Nielsen playing note after note on cue from Eric Johnson, an organ voicer who was standing amid the pipes, in a chamber on the opposite side of the cathedral.

They were tuning flutelike stops at fairly low volume when Mr. Neswick arrived. As they worked their way up the scale, the pitches became higher and higher. It was hard to listen for more than a moment without thinking of the sounds in a hearing test, or of a tea kettle that has been on the stove a little too long.

The 98-year-old organ was designed by Ernest M. Skinner, who also built the organ at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, among many others. This one was enlarged in the 1950s by G. Donald Harrison.

As part of the current restoration, all 8,500 organ pipes were taken out and shipped to Missouri in 2005. They were cleaned by Quimby Pipe Organs, which builds and restores instruments of a scale approaching this one.

They were brought back last summer, and the organ console was moved into place above the choir loft last month.

The mechanical controls inside the organ console are brand new. The old mechanical relays that controlled the pipes are gone, replaced by a new system with microprocessors.

Mr. Neswick said a goal of the restoration had been to introduce "just the right amount of modern technology without interfering with the artistry of the instrument."

The rebuilding was necessitated by the 2001 fire, a five-alarm blaze that apparently started in the gift shop. It gutted the north transept; smoke dirtied much of the 601-foot-long sanctuary. Two 17th-century Italian tapestries from a set of 12 depicting the life of Christ were also damaged.

The work on the organ was delayed briefly around Labor Day, when a drainage pipe that was being replaced in the cathedral spilled dirty water into the newly refurbished organ chambers.

Michael Quimby, the president of the company that rebuilt the organ, said the accident increased the pressure on the team installing the instrument as the Sunday rededication drew near. "Where we thought we'd have plenty of time to put the organ through its paces," he said, "it's really down to the wire because of that situation."

Mr. Neswick played for a while before letting Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Johnson go back to tuning. Mr. Neswick did not try what Mr. Hunt called "the most famous organ stop anywhere," the organ's state trumpet stop. It plays the horizontal pipes at the west end of the cathedral, more than 500 feet from the console and the rest of the pipes.

The state trumpet stop was designed to be loud — so loud that organists who are practicing sometimes call the visitors' center to warn people. They still jump at the first note.

"The idea was the state trumpet stop would only be used on state occasions, to announce the bishop on Easter Sunday, when he knocks at the great bronze doors," Mr. Hunt said. "But it has become a voice of the place."

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Longtime parishioner **Emma Johnson's** 98-year life was celebrated, and loving memories invoked, at a Eucharist on Jan. 31.

After the 10:30 Eucharist on Feb. 1, when the recessional and the blessing were over, organist **Jeff Nall** startled the congregation with "The Star-Spangled Banner" by way of a postlude. Everyone sprang to their feet and sang along, of course; when asked about it, he said matter-of-factly, "Well, it's Super Bowl Sunday!" Only at Trinity!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Hazel Kirk
3	Ted Jackson
4	Joyce Daughaday
5	Alexandra Cadenhead
7	Linda Small Angela Harris
9	Nelson Corliss
16	La Mont Hopson Kitty Drescher
25	Alexander Gerteis
26	Charlene Wright Eden Harris
28	Elsa Magdalena Layher

IN OUR PRAYERS

We keep in our prayers those who are ill or in need:

Anne Kelsey, recovering from an appendectomy; Michael Bentz, bladder cancer; Pat Way, recovering from knee surgery; Alex Cadenhead, recovering from hand surgery; Nancy Cadenhead, breast cancer; John Drescher; Eldright White

...and those with ongoing challenges: Kayte Foxworth, Margaret Kane, Mary Moore, Betsey Gardner, Joan Dunbar, Dick Weber, Jackie Judd, Dee Scott, Sallie Fuhri, Joan Edmonds.

Serving in the military: Chuck Clement, Chad Clement, Patricia Roddy Jones, Andrew Bredow, Scott Lehrmann, Jim Hall, Martin Burkart, Keith Burkart, Craig Hickerson, JonMichael Bentz, John Worland, Tony Elkin, and Jeff Holzbauer.

Family Members:

Dorothy Fisher, Gil Fisher's mother, recovering from a fall; Ulric S.J. and Mary Dunbar, Joan Dunbar's brother

and sister-in-law; Anne; Hannah Fox, Jeff Wunrow's second-cousin, cystic fibrosis; Briana Williams, Ann Watts' granddaughter, recently hospitalized; Pat and Wes Haggans; Anne Judd, Jackie Judd's mother, ovarian cancer; John Dalzell; Joseph Schmidt (and family), nephew of Georgiana Cameron, in prison awaiting sentencing; Dan Clement, Alexah Strongheart's cousin, cancer; Janet Flanders, Alexah Strongheart's cousin, cancer; John Miller, Jim Pfaff's brother-in-law, recovering from a stroke; Michael (Tony) Reece, Jackie Judd's son, Barrett's esophagus; William Edwards, Jane Edwards' grand-nephew, bi-polar; Adele Holloman, Mary Ellen Anderson's sister; Christopher Edwards and Beth Edwards, Jane Edward's nephew; Warren Frank Moseley, Cynthia Fox's son

Friends: Andy P., friend of Jim Pfaff, prostate cancer; Rufus Millsap, friend of Gil Fisher, recovering from a stroke; Mike Thau, friend of Brian Alms; Jerry Millsap, friend of Gil Fisher, depression; Lee Calvin Millsap, friend of Gil Fisher, knee replacement; Andy and Alice Briedenbach, friends of Joan Dunbar; Cooper Quintana, friend of Bill and Mary Russell. premature baby; Octavia Moore Cooper, Dee Scott's roommate; Anne; Sally Moylan, friend of Pat Way, serious auto accident; Ernest Abel, friend of Jan Dunlap, pancreatic cancer; John Gillis, friend of Barbara Ritchey; Eula John, friend of Jan Parker; Hugh Gwyn, friend of Julien Worland; Jamie Jack, friend of Jan Parker; David Willers, friend of Gil Fisher, colon surgery; Rebecca Barnard, friend of Jim Pfaff; Charles Perkins; Joe Duggan, friend of Helen Hendry, cancer; Gayle Birdsong, friend of Hazel Kirk; Bill Russell, kidney and heart problems; Ruth Ehresman, friend of Gil Fisher, cancer; Guy S. Little, Jr., friend of Gil Fisher, loss of a loved one; Willow Pastard; Danny Porter, friend of Greg Smith, stroke; Ed Etheredge, friend of Virginia Benson; Caroline Wohlforth, cancer; Jim Bourne, friend of Gil Fisher, prostate cancer; Chris Ferry, friend of Jim Pfaff, cancer; Frank Warthen, friend of Brian Alms; Lexie Cunningham, lung transplant, and her grandmother Jeannine Houchin; Lillye Bryant, friend of Joan Dunbar, liver problems; Ethelyn Davis, friend of Joan Dunbar, back problems; Lucille Morgan, friend of Joan Dunbar, back and eye problems; Steve Post, friend of George and Virginia Benson, Alzheimer's; Sandra Weber, friend of Lisa Carpenter, poor health; Louise Lears, friend of Gil Fisher; Kay Chandeysson, friend of Ann and Bill Baker, stroke; Jeanne Gordon, friend of Martha Baker, recovering from hip replacement; Leon Milsap, friend of Gil Fisher, cancer; Mary O'Neal, friend of Joan Dunbar

Departed: Emma Johnson, Norma Good, Kay Archer, Bernice Clement.

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Lent begins

DATED MATERIAL

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.

TRINITY TIMES

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