



Tidings

DECEMBER 1, 2011

WWW.TRINITYWAUWATOSA.ORG

VOLUME 10 NO. 12

Dear Sisters and Brothers at Trinity Church:

In the ebb and flow of parochial life, one of the busiest times on the church calendar seems to be the weeks between mid-September and Christmas.

Trinity Church is no exception. This fall, we've commemorated the tenth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks with a special Evensong, cranked up another year of Sunday School for our younger parishioners, and offered special adult forum series on "End of Life Issues" and "Sunday Morning Liturgy in a Monday Morning World". We've blessed animals. We've enjoyed yet another successful "Awesome Auction for Outreach". In just the last two weeks we celebrated "Commitment Sunday" in which pledges of time, talent and treasure were received to support the mission and ministry of this parish in the coming year. Yet another Living Compass group has been meeting. Father Fehr has continued his monthly discussions about theology on Thursday evenings. I've led my first "Novel Theology" discussion.

In and around all of these activities, the regularly scheduled life of the parish has continued: Sunday worship, weekday worship, pastoral care, committee meetings and foyer groups. We've baptized babies. We've visited the sick and shut-in. We've prayed for and with each other. We've welcomed guests into our midst, and some of them have decided to become part of this community of faith. It has been a good year in this parish and we've had a busy past few weeks.

By the time you read this letter, the season of Advent will already be one week old. Imagine, three weeks until Christmas! I suspect for many of us there are still plenty of details to manage before December 25th. Perhaps lots of shopping or scurrying or planning or partying left to do. During these next few days there will be extra busyness on top of the weekly busyness that seems to be part of how we live our lives.

My prayer is that each of us will intentionally take a few opportunities between now and Christmas to pause, close our eyes, breathe and offer prayers of thanksgiving – for the gifts of love and care that surround us on every side; for the gift of this community of fellow disciples; for this precious gift of life that we too often take for granted. We are a gifted people. My hope is that in the coming year we will discover ways to share those gifts with each other and the community that surrounds us.

A blessed Advent to you all!

Gary B. Manning, Rector



Trinity Episcopal Church
Wauwatosa, WI

VESTRY CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

At the Annual Parish Meeting
on January 22, 2012,
we will be electing new Vestry
members. Candidates must be
Communicants in Good Standing
who are willing to be elected and to
serve faithfully in the best
interest of Trinity Church.

Please get permission from the
candidate you wish to nominate,
complete this form, and return it to
the church office.

As a committed and communing
member of Trinity Episcopal Church,
I hereby nominate

Name of nominee

who is a Communicant in Good
Standing, for election to the 2012 Vestry
of Trinity Church.

Nominated by:

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ADVENT MINI-RETREAT: Finding the Rhythms of Grace

Saturday, December 3, 2011
9:30 am—12:30 pm at
Trinity Episcopal Church

A three hour mini-retreat to help you
discern and align yourself with the
Rhythms of Grace during the busy and
stressful holiday season.

This retreat is open to everyone who is
looking for a little "rest for their soul."

There is no charge, however
pre-registration is preferred. Use the
sign up sheet on the ministry center in
the narthex or e-mail Scott Stoner at
scott@livingcompass.org.

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS
DECEMBER 16, 2011**



TEEM Ideas for a Green Christmas!!

To begin with, prayerfully consider the great gifts of life and love you already have in your life. Be mindful of stress, over-expenditure, proper rest and nutrition. Keep Jesus in front of you, the “reason for the season” as we hear frequently in retaliation to the extreme commercialization of this holy time. ***Be in Advent*** as we await the Christ child. Perhaps these offerings may help you prepare in your home and with others.

Almost all fake Christmas trees are made with PVC (aka vinyl) and sometimes contain lead. Purchase vintage aluminum trees, or real, locally grown trees. Artificial trees may “off-gas”, most recognized by that “new car smell” which is actually toxic. Another idea is to get a live tree, and plant it outside in the spring. A tree cut at a tree farm is replaced several times over for every one you cut. Trees bought on lots have been cut and in transit, and waiting for you for as long as a month (and sometimes longer) before purchase. They are, consequently, a greater fire hazard. If you need tree farm suggestions, please ask a TEEM member. When your live tree has had its Christmas life in the house, take it outside and prop it in the hoped-for snow. Let it become a natural birdfeeder or shelter for wildlife. Cut off the branches for winter mulch over your plants, and in the spring, use the trunk as a support for morning glories, clematis, or if you collect them off the curb at Christmas (your municipality will thank you and), you can prop three or four together for a teepee or trellis effect. Date the bottom of the trunk cuts and you will see how long these trees can last. Return for municipal compost otherwise.

Decorative lights: Consider strings of [light-emitting diodes](#) , or LEDs, which use a fraction of the energy of conventional light bulbs, roughly 90% with a 50,000 hour bulb life. Based on semiconductors, LEDs are also cool to the touch and extremely durable.

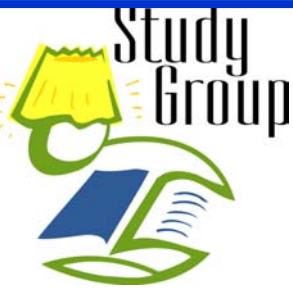
Gifts: Good Will stores, or other thrift or charity benefitting stores, are great sources for new or gently used gifts at truly amazing prices. Believe it. Ask Christian Paschke! Also consider donations to Trinity, the clergy discretionary funds which helps them assist those in need within our parish and beyond, ERD, The Gathering, The Hunger Task Force, Heifer International, or the organization of your choice, in honor of someone you love. Consider an early winter clean out and donating your own things not used anymore, that might make wonderful gifts for someone else. Christmas decorations are a great item for thrift store donations.

Wrapping paper: Try Sunday comics, butcher (brown) or white paper used for wrapping breakables decorated with paints, drawing, stamps or stickers. Inherited wrapping paper from family members, and even bought paper for pennies at a thrift store may be quite “retro” and unique. All wrap can be recycled but usually not ribbon.

Some of these ideas and more can be found at: <http://www.thedailygreen.com/green-homes/latest/christmas-lights-holidays-leds#ixzz1dcQXM4Ef> or www.chej.org

A most blessed holy season to all!

Trinity Episcopal Environmental Ministry



THEOLOGY STUDY GROUP

Continues.....with the Rev. Wayne Fehr, Ph.D.

7:00 pm Thursday, December 8

In Trinity's Lounge

Join the Rev. Wayne Fehr, Ph.D. for the final session in the series. Pick up a copy of the brief essay in preparation for this discussion. Copies are available on the ministry center in the narthex.

Blue Christmas Service

A-Not-So-Merry-Christmas may be the reality for those of us who are in pain due to a lost job, lost health or a lost loved one. The congregations of Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church and Trinity Episcopal Church will once again

sponsor a

“Blue Christmas” Service on

Thursday, Dec. 15th at 7:00 p.m. at

Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church

Please feel free to invite any friends, family, or neighbors who might find this type of service something that could be helpful for them. This service will include prayers, hymns, reflections and an opportunity to receive individual prayer for healing and wholeness.

Questions? Contact Gary Manning at 414-453-4540 or tosapriest@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant & Family Eucharist

10:30 p.m. Carol Vigil

11:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 25 — Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols, Rite II

Remembering the 50's



The Awesome Auction for Outreach featured a variety of wonderful donations including two separate weeks in Ireland, several dinners, special beer from Minnesota, hand made items, and many service offers.



Hugh Hefner "stopped by" to greet the crowd of folks who dressed the part either in poodle skirts, letter sweaters or other garb from the fabulous 50's. Thanks to everyone who helped us raise \$10,000 for outreach.

Thanks to the planning committee who worked hard to make this another successful auction, and also thank you if you donated something, came to the auction, or prayed for our success.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Every week flowers (with the exception of Advent, when greens are used and Lent, when the altar is bare) are placed on the altar in remembrance of a loved one or in celebration of an event, birthday, anniversary or for blessings received. There are several ways to be part of this ministry. You may sign up for flowers on the sheet pinned to the usher closet in the narthex, and receive a call from Peggy Witte or call Peggy directly at 414-258-9753. The bouquets are made and delivered by Roses Flower Shop every week. There are several openings for flowers during the month of January. The cost per bouquet is \$35.



The End of a Trinity Tradition

Over forty years ago, a few parishioners gathered to pray and celebrate the Eucharist on a Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. Following their feast on Word and Sacrament, these folks retired to a local restaurant for fellowship and breakfast. Little did they know that they were beginning a Trinity Tradition which would span the ministries of five rectors, many assisting clergy, and countless changes in our world and our Church. Through these decades of faithful worship, friendships have been formed, lives have been shared and the life of this community has been strengthened. For the past year, the parishioners who continue to gather for worship on Friday mornings have talked candidly about the shrinking attendance at this service, coupled with the reality that this time of day no longer appears to be an attractive option as an opportunity for worship. Therefore, the Friday morning Eucharist at Trinity Church will cease to be a part of the weekly worship schedule as of December 23, 2011. This decision (a joint one between the rector and the Friday morning congregation) has not been easy, but we feel it is the right one at this time. Between now and the end of the year, we will continue to gather to pray and to celebrate the Eucharist on Friday mornings at 6:30 a.m. We will remember and give thanks for the faithfulness of the saints, who through the past 40+ years have shared their lives with each other and offered their ministries for the life of this parish. Thanks be to God!

S Together we have raised over \$900 for outreach using Scrip this year. Ordering on the first Sunday of the month seems to be working so it will continue in 2012.

C

R Watch for slips in the narthex and on the kitchen counter. For those who are still confused, Scrip is a gift card program that allows us to purchase gift cards for many different places such as food stores, gas stations, restaurants and hardware stores. We earn a certain percentage (varies per card) on each card which we use for outreach. For example Roundy's-pick and save is a common purchase. We earn 4% of all sales on this card; on a 100 dollar card we earn \$4.00. It doesn't sound like much, but when we all work together we see a greater profit. Think about where you shop for groceries, or where you typically eat out and buy a card from Scrip and Trinity will benefit. If this is still as clear as mud, ask Jill Paradowski and she can give you the scoop. Thanks for all you have done to make Scrip a success in 2011.

Trinity will be helping serve lunch at The Gathering's St. James location (833 W. Wisconsin Ave.) on Saturday, January 21, 2012 from 9:45 am to 1:30 pm. We need 15-20 volunteers. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Tony Zaffiro at 414-333-2920/amzaffiro@yahoo.com for more information.



125 Years of Grace upon Grace 1887-2012

Help is needed to bring the parish history up to date! If you have any pictures, correspondence, news articles or other items that could aid in this project, please contact Mike Hagon at 414-464-8123 or mhagontfe@wi.rr.com. **2012 WALL CALENDARS** containing historic pictures will be available for purchase beginning December 11 for \$5. If you would like to underwrite the cost or if you know of someone who would like to do so, please speak with Gary.



Episcopal YOUTH Community



EYC meetings in November included a board game night, and an afternoon roller skating with our own "Holy Roller", Fr. Gary, and the two skating mavens Jen and Mrs. Manning! Here's what's coming in December....

Friday/Saturday, December 2nd and 3rd, Mini-mission weekend

Details are still being worked out, but we do know we will be holding our annual "Iron Chef" on Saturday evening--truly not an event to be missed! Watch for emails with details coming shortly!

Sunday, December 18th, White Elephant Christmas Party at the Boyd's, 5-7 pm.

This is a family event, so all are welcome! There will be a "white elephant" gift exchange--find something random, or, if you must, buy something (limit \$5) to exchange--bring a gift, get a gift! The wackier, the better!

Just some gentle reminders--please check emails regularly and reply when requested--it's hard to plan a party when you don't know how many guests to expect! The fearless leaders are grateful to all of the parents who have helped out with meals, etc--and a special thanks to Jaime K, who continues to make sure all of the details get managed! We're off to a great year!

Your fearless leaders



Red Door Clothes

Thank you for all of your generous donations to Red Door Clothes this past year. The people who come to Red Door Clothes really appreciate your generosity. Thank you to all who participated in the Auction. Red Door Clothes is able to purchase new socks and underwear with the grant money. Thank you. ~ Jane Johnson

Have you stayed in a hotel lately? Why do I ask? The small shampoo, lotion, soap, and anything else a hotel leaves in the bathroom for your use are valuable products that are used by several of the programs important to Trinity. For years I have been using your donations to "build" hygiene kits for Haiti. I have also been sharing some of your donations with Red Door Clothes. The guests look for these as they come in to choose clothing. These items are also used by the clients who come to "Bread of Life" at St. Luke's in Racine and will be made available to Trinitree's new partner, the Cathedral Center. So PLEASE do not leave these items behind. Pack them up and bring them to church and I will get them to the ministries that need them. Place them in the basket on the welcome center in the narthex. Our sisters and brothers in the community thank you for your generosity. Any thoughts, contact Jill Paradowski at jill.paradowski@gmail.com or 414-466-5037.



TRINI-TREE



Trinitree will help Our Next Generation with a book drive and the Cathedral Center with every day necessities this year.

What you need to do by Sunday, December 11, 2011:

1. Take a tag (or 2, or 3...)
2. Purchase the item(s)
3. Bring the item(s) back to the church, unwrapped, with the tag attached

Any questions? See Mel Paradowski, call her at 414.708.8072, or email her at melpo414@hotmail.com.

Don't have time to go shopping? Not able to get out? Not a fan of the holiday crowds?

You can still help! All monetary donations will help purchase items for each group.

Please give monetary donations to Mel Paradowski or place in the offertory plate made out to "Trinity Church" with "Trinitree" in the memo (BEFORE 12/11). There will be a location in the Narthex for all gift donations starting November 27th.

FAMILY LIFE GROUP

"Family Life welcomes Anne and Richard Literski on Sunday December 4th as they share their faith journey through the adoption of their two children from China. Family Life meets in the Lounge every Sunday (except for Potluck Brunch Sundays) after the 9:30 service."

ACOLYTE TRAINING



SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 11:30 am
For all current and those interested
in serving as an acolyte!

Questions: Contact Chris Jeske at
414-453-2465.



Please stay after the 9:30 am service on Dec. 18 to hang the greens with your Trinity family.

Help decorate Trinity Church for Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia(s) by Sunday, Dec. 18. (please write poinsettias on the memo line if you are writing a check).

Your name(s) _____

Phone/email _____

I/We would like ___ poinsettia plant(s) at \$15 each to be offered:

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of:



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December</h1> 		<h1>2011</h1>		1	2 6:30 am Holy Eucharist 5:00 pm Music Makers Spaghetti Dinner	3 8:00 am Red Door Clothes 9:30 am—12:30 pm Advent Mini-Retreat EYC Mini-Mission week- end
4 2 Advent Scrip 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:45 am Christian Forma- tion & Fellowship 11:30 am 125th Anniver- sary Committee Meeting EYC Mini-Mission	5 7:00 pm MSG	6 6:45 pm Finance Com- mittee Meeting	7 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	8 7:00 pm Theology Study Group	9 6:30 am Holy Eucharist	10 9:00 am Center for Strings Holiday Concert In Parish Hall
11 3 Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:45 am Christian Forma- tion & Fellowship	12	13	14 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	15 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm "Blue Christ- mas" @ Wauwatosa Ave. Methodist Church	16 6:30 am Holy Eucharist NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 8:00 am Red Door Clothes
18 4 Advent 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:45 am Christian Forma- tion & Fellowship Hanging of the Greens 5:00 pm EYC	19	20	21 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	22	23 6:30 am Holy Eucharist PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 pm Pageant & Family Eucharist 10:30 pm Carol Vigil 11:00 pm Festival Holy Eucharist
25 Christmas Day 10:00 am Liturgy of the Nativity 	26 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	29	30 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

TIDINGS

Trinity Church
1717 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
December, 2011



PERIODICALS
Postage paid
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
(USPS 014807)



Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant & Family Eucharist

10:30 p.m. Carol Vigil

11:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols, Rite II