

Rector's Report: 1/24/11

Good morning,

This is my first parish meeting as the Rector of Trinity Grand Ledge. Seeing as how I've only been the rector for a few months, I don't have as much to report. Because this is the Sunday for conference championship games, that is a good thing.

Upon calling me to be rector, the Vestry set four goals for our mutual ministry together:

1. Nurture spiritual growth & leadership
2. Provide inspirational and varied worship
3. Increase Outreach
4. Support fellowship for congregation and newcomers

In December, the Vestry and I met for a morning at The English Inn to develop plans for meeting those goals. We decided to divide the year into thirds. Every four months, Trinity will have both an outreach and fellowship event with special liturgies spread throughout the year.

In the first third, we've scheduled Epiphany and a Twelfth Night party which has already taken place. Also, for outreach, we've planned a pounding of the food pantry and Christmas in April. When my grandfather was a minister, his congregation would supplement his income by periodically providing him with a pound of food from each member of the congregation. Instead of giving a pound of food to the priest, we encourage you to each provide a pound of food to be taken to the food pantry. Christmas in April will focus on doing a project to help somebody in need.

In the second third, as both a special liturgy and opportunity for fellowship, we will be celebrating Rogation Sunday which is a time for the blessing of the crops. A member of the Vestry has tentatively volunteered to host this event. Also, as a special liturgy, I hope we can have a Victorian Mass where celebrate the Mass using the 19<sup>th</sup> century liturgy, ceremonial, and music with the entire congregation invited to dress in period costumes if they desire. For outreach, we want to help with a Habitat for Humanity home as well as having a clothing drive. Lastly, Trinity will continue the tradition of having Mass on the Grass.

In the last third, the well loved traditions of the Blessing of the Animals and the Lamb Roast will continue. Also, a possible new tradition will be established when we hold the second annual All Hallows Eve liturgy with Trunk or Treat following. For outreach, we will be hosting sort of a free farmers market. Hopefully, the Rogation blessing of the crops will yield bountiful harvest for all of our farmers and amateur gardeners so that we will be able to share of that bounty by giving it away to those wanting fresh produce. Keep this event in mind when you begin planting your gardens this year.

Lastly, at least three times and probably more, I will be leading Theology on Tap. One night, I will go to a local pub and invite all who wish to come and join me for a somewhat informal conversation about things theological and spiritual. This is not a class or lecture. It is a conversation.

With the exception of Theology on Tap, a team of vestry members will spearhead each of the events on the calendar. More information will be forthcoming over the following weeks and months. The above activities are not all that we will be doing. Other things may happen as well but this will get us started.

I have enjoyed serving as your rector over the past couple of months. I look forward to continuing our ministry together for a whole year.

Peace,

Fr. Aaron