

Building Saint Patrick's

Proclaim Christ's love to the world

February & March 2011
The Rev. Tinh T. Huynh, Vicar



Email: stpats3241@gmail.com
3241 Brush Dr., Falls Church, VA 22042
Tel. 703-532-5656; www.saintpatricks.us

Thoughts on Saint Patrick's.

During our 2011 Stewardship Drive, in November 2010, our My-Linh Tran, Winnie Lebo, Milton Thomas and Joe Hiller shared their thoughts on Saint Patrick's. Below are words of three of them.

Winnie Lebo

In 2005, my granddaughter came to me and said she wanted to go to church, like her friends did. So I set out to find a church for us.

Since I had been raised Catholic, I got in touch with the neighborhood Catholic Church and told them of my need. The response was very disappointing in regards to what I was looking for to meet her needs.

Then I recalled that many, many years ago my son and his friends told me about a hidden church just a few blocks from our house. They went there to ride bikes in the parking lot and play in the woods. I had not given another thought to the hidden church since then.

Now, with Justice's request in mind, I remembered what they had said those many years back and one Sunday morning, I visited Saint Patrick's. I was greeted warmly by Alice King and was made to feel right at home. I spoke to Father Tinh about Justice and, the following Sunday, I brought Steve and Justice to church with me. Alice remembered my name. Father Tinh spoke to Justice and told her that she was a child of God's and she could receive communion that very morning.

Saint Patrick's, Father Tinh and the congregation won my heart and gratitude. Justice was baptized, I was received and my family found a spiritual home.

God works quietly through the wonderful, warm-hearted, generous members of this little hidden church and through its amazing Vicar, a

man almost impossible to say no to. He knew exactly how to help a little girl hurting and in need and we are forever grateful to him, the family of Saint Patrick's and God. We will be members of St. Pat's as long as this little hidden church continues to do the works of God.

Milton Thomas

I was asked to say a few words on what Saint Patrick's means to me.

I was born into a Christian home of Episcopalians and so was my wife. My parents were very religious to the extent where we prayed before going to church in the morning and then we prayed again upon arrival from church.

I arrived in the US in 1989 and, as a result of my religious upbringing, one of my first tasks was to look for a church. I visited few churches in the Dunn Luring, Vienna area and found the Holy Cross



Episcopal Church, with presiding priest, Fr. Jonathan Bryan.

Cheryl and I immediately became members. We got married there. Ola was baptized there and



lots of other memorable things happened there.

After few years, we bought a house in Annandale and moved away from Vienna. My late brother, Sam and his wife Pauline were already residing in Falls Church by then and had visited St. Patrick's on few occasions. Pauline communicated the warm reception she received during her visits to St Patrick's and spoke very highly about the welcoming attitude of the priest (Fr. Tinh) and the congregation. She also spoke of the cultural diversity and said that St Patrick's was just different from other churches.

Cheryl bought into the idea of us switching churches right away and tried to convince me to relocate our membership. However, as a DOUBTING Thomas that I am, I was very reluctant and told her that we had not been mistreated at the Holy Cross and that there was no reason to switch to a new church.

The "Switching Church discussions" went on for some weeks, until Cheryl decided to visit St Patrick's on her own as a guest of Pauline. Upon returning home, she increased the pressure for us to transfer our membership. I do not know what and how it happened; but one evening, I saw Fr. Tinh at our front door. His visit was very



humble and the discussions we had laid the foundation for our transfer.

It has been 10 years since me and my family became members of St. Patrick's and I have never regretted. During those years, Fr. Tinh and the members of St. Patrick's have been there for me and my family during times of celebration and during times of sorrow. This church is a church of love and we are raising our children here because of that love.

Saint Patrick's is different. The members are friendly, caring and the fellowship is rewarding and uplifting.

What does St. Patrick's mean to me?

Every weekend, I drive my car to the gas station and fill up my tank with gas. That gas lasts me for the entire following week. I do not fill up again until the end of the week. Likewise, St. Patrick's is my Religious filling station where I come on Sunday and get my Religious fillup for the week. St. Patrick's is my Religious Gas Station. The one good thing is that at St. Patrick's, the religious fill up is FREE.

What does St. Patrick's mean to me?

Saint Patrick's mean diversity. Because of that diversity, I want to say – Thanks be to GOD as well as "Chung con ta on Chua." Thank you.

Joe Hiller



Shortly after meeting Mariko, I was introduced to St. Patrick's on a Saturday, at an Odeon practice. I wanted to meet her for lunch; but we'd had a bit of snow and she was in the church, letting the next performer practice and preparing for an Odeon performance on Sunday. Most of the ladies I'd met were very much into their personal issues and problems; but Mariko was much more interested in her occupation and her concert series. She was working to

create something outside of herself, and St. Patrick's was supporting the effort. At the time, I had been attending a Methodist church in Herndon; which was supporting a very limited tutoring program that I'd taken over. I was immediately impressed by what she was accomplishing with music, and the inspiration took root that I should be trying to create something bigger than just me, too.



Things progressed between us, far faster than I ever imagined. And I was introduced to the people of St. Patrick's at the same time. My Methodist church was quite large, and while it was supportive, it reminded me of High School in the sense that there were semi-independent groups working toward their own goals, and meeting only to worship. St. Patrick's quickly introduced me to everyone; not just to the few people I was working with.



Now, I'm a scientist. What that means is that I follow a philosophy that helps me interpret the physical world around me with mathematics.

We tend toward a practical interpretation of philosophy and things around us- and we study it.

Though there were no other scientists at St. Patrick's and there were several at the Herndon church, St. Patrick's reminded me of a small church I had loved in Michigan. There, we all worked together on at least one event every season. I eventually realized it was the people I loved, not the sect; but the feeling of being part of a group.

I've greatly enjoyed getting to know you all, and want to thank you for being those people who welcomed me into their company- and reminded what its like to be part of a small group of people who worship and work together..



Parish Notes

- Our condolences to Russ and Hanh Van Wingerden on the death of Russ' best friend Bob Boutin, on December 30, 2010, in Texas.
- Congratulations to Savannah Frizzell and Chris Kekeris, who were baptized on January 2, 2011.
- Congratulations to Katie Grosse, who celebrated her 101th birthday on February 2, 2011.
- Holy Cross Korean Episcopal Church joined Saint Patrick's on Sunday, February 6th, in worship and Tet celebration. The Prayers of the People were said in English and three Asian languages, and our Asian and African parishioners wore their national costumes. Delicious food was served, and the variety show included a dragon dance performed by St. Patrick's youth.

-Congratulations to Jean and Tom Wetrich on their 63rd wedding anniversary, Feb. 14th, 2011.

- The 2011 bishop visitation has been re-scheduled for September 25th. The Right Reverend Ted Gulick, Assistant Bishop, will be celebrant and preacher at our church on that day, and the service will be held in the afternoon.

- Many thanks to Felix Spinelli, Maggie Spinelli, Victoria Kennedy, Ann Nelson and Kim-Anh Huynh, who on February 15th cooked and prepared hot meals and breakfast for 50 homeless people. Felix delivered the meals to Bailey's Crossroads Community Center, where Ruth Spinelli and Chris Nicholson joined him in serving them to the people.



- Youth Choir Festival, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD, Sunday, March 20, from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. The congregation is invited to join us for the Festival Worship Service which begins at 7:00 p.m. For directions, questions, to arrange a carpool, or to provide support to our Youth for this event, contact Mariko Hiller (703-200-7489) or Catherine Dubas (703-207-0424).

- Region 8's Lenten Series in 5 sessions -- Wednesday nights, beginning with dinner at 7:00 PM, and ending at 8:45 PM. The series will explore how we live together in a common humanity based on being created by God despite

cultural and religious differences. (see "Upcoming Events")



- The Shrove Tuesday Dinner will be held at St. Patrick's on March 8, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Our Pauline Leonard will cook, and she will need a lot of help in the kitchen on Monday. The arts of the children of Westlawn Elementary School will be displayed. Ticket to the dinner will be available at the door (Adult: \$6.00; Child: \$3.00).



Vestry Notes

On December 14, 2010, the vestry of St. Patrick's met and:

- Welcomed new vestry members: Tom Auld, Chris Nicholson, Vivian Benjamin, Pierre Chanu, and Jocelyne Miller.

- Treasurer Kathy Oliver reported we had a \$4,087.76 deficit. However, she has prepaid insurance on the property through next November, 2011. A large pledge for 2010 was received at the beginning of December.

- Affirmed Tom Auld as Senior Warden, and Vivian Benjamin as Junior Warden.

- Decided to hold the Shrove Tuesday Dinner on March 8th, 2011, and to invite the Westlawn children to show their art work at the event.



- Maggie Spinelli reported on the meeting of Region VIII Council and presented a proposal regarding St. Patrick's youth.

- Kathy reviewed what was discussed at the Annual Meeting. She outlined some of the big projects. We have a bid of \$10,000 to paint the outside of the rectory. We would like to have two more bids. Fixing the parking lot will run \$7,000 to \$8,000. Cleaning up the overflow parking lot will cost \$3,000. Kathy suggests we wait to see how the pledges and the budget match up to see if any of these projects are doable. She did advise us that we have about \$80,000 in reserves with Schwab.

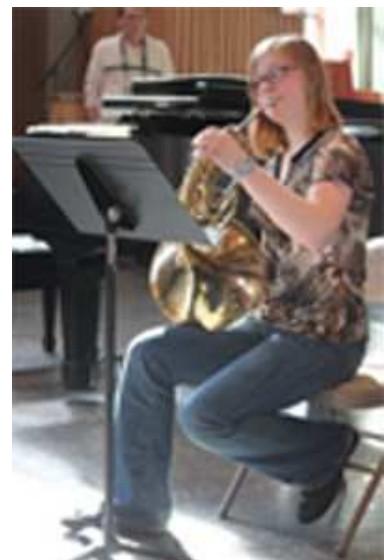
- Tinh+ reported that he contacted the Volunteers of America and there is no chance to provide shelter this year, however, we will be able to provide food. Felix Spinelli will be our contact person with the shelter. Victoria Kennedy offered to help. Tinh+ did

state that we would open our doors in the event of an emergency.



- Heard that Tinh+ and Winnie had a meeting with the principal of Westlawn Elementary School, Lynn Brown, to fill out and submit the paperwork to Dr. Dale, head of the School Board, to make St. Patrick's faith partnership with Westlawn official. Winnie advised that the Angels for Christmas project was doing better than we hoped for. Each child received three presents, each adult received one present and there was enough money donated that we were able to provide each of the six families with a \$50 gift card from Target. Winnie and Justice will start delivering gifts December 21.

- Tinh+ reported that his discretionary fund was used to meet the needs of many people in our community including Westlawn, FCS, and Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless (through the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter). He asked us to pray for Elizabeth Kim's twelve year old son, Elliot. He has been diagnosed with Type I diabetes. (Elizabeth is our Liaison with the diocesan Commission on Congregational Mission).



- Heard that during the month of November Tinh+ made hospital

visits to Mary Isibel, Edna Rhoad, Sheila Henderson and Wanda Nolan.

- On January 18, 2011, the Vestry meeting was led by Senior Warden Tom Auld, beginning with time for reflection on Scripture, and:



- Treasurer Kathy Oliver advised us that due to a pledge received in December, we finished \$7,000 to \$8,000 ahead. She also said that she received a pledge for 2011 paid in full this January.

- Winnie reported that the Westlawn art teacher, Alice Long, has agreed to provide art work for the Shrove Tuesday Dinner and Art Show. Pauline Leonard has agreed to cook, provided she has help.

- Amelia Nicholson will be our Delegate to the 2012 diocesan council. Either Kathy or Tom will be the alternate.

- The vestry retreat will be held on February 26, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Immanuel-on-the-Hill. Lunch will be at the Seminary. Possible topics for discussion are the budget, how to build the congregation as we head toward full-church status, and how to make our mission statement work for us today.

- A clean-up day will be scheduled. There is some inside painting that needs to be done. We will replace all the seals of the toilet water tanks in the church building, upstairs and downstairs.

- Heard that a Vietnamese neighbor of Saint Patrick's, a single mother of three children, became paralyzed from the waist down after a spine

surgery. The Vestry wanted to look into ways of responding to her needs.

- Heard that Maggie and Felix Spinelli will prepare meals for the homeless shelter on Feb. 15.

- Tinh+ had the Vestry look over a survey on youth program needs that Maggie Spinelli has come up with. The Vestry suggested changes to a couple of questions in the survey, and thanked Maggie for the good work.

- Heard that work will soon begin on a new altar cloth for Pentecost, featuring a figure designed by Jennifer Phan and painted by her father Loc Phan. It will be in memory of our Dusty Rhoad. Also, a clergy stole in memory of Olivejean Patterson will be either purchased or made for Pentecost.

Birthdays

February

- 1 Pauline Thomas
- 2 Katie Grossé
- 5 Delaney Curtis
- 5 Nathaniel Johnson
- 15 Debbie Los
- 17 Douglas Payne
- 17 Pat Ferrufino
- 23 Frank Parrotta
- 26 Cheryl Thomas
- 27 Hong Pham
- 27 Liz Nguyen
- 28 Basil Mills

March

- 4 Aaron Tingley
- 6 Fowell Tucker
- 6 Sophia Ellis
- 7 Wanda Nolan
- 7 Hugh Nicholson
- 9 Patrick Tingley
- 9 Brendan Tingley
- 12 Bobby Dubas
- 13 Milton Thomas
- 15 Jane Patterson Auld
- 22 Thien Nguyen
- 22 Victoria Parrotta
- 26 Donna Herbert
- 27 Bob Cascella
- 28 Keith Gardner
- 31 Jennifer Phan
- 31 Gisela Johnson-Harbers

April

- 5 Douglas Payne, Jr.

- 8 Philip Nicholson
- 10 Joseph Dubas
- 11 Anna Chanu
- 17 Thien Thanh Nguyen
- 17 Audette Frazer
- 19 Savannah Frizzell
- 21 Cheryl Gardner
- 22 Amy Phan
- 24 Lindsay Gardner
- 27 Pat Gardner
- 28 Carolyn Auld
- 30 Cate Johnson

- Wed, April 13: Lenten Series @ St. Paul's:
"Repentance"
- Sun, April 17: Palm Sunday
- Thurs, April 21: Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 PM
- Fri, April 22: Good Friday service, 10:30 AM
and 7:30 PM
- Sun, April 24: Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 AM
Easter Day service, 10:30 AM

Upcoming Events

- Sat, Feb. 26: Vestry Retreat, 9 AM ~ 2:30 PM
- Sun, Feb. 27: Youth Choir Practice, after church;
Odeon Concert, 4 PM
- Fri, Mar 4: Church Women United, 10 AM
- Sun, Mar 6: Youth Choir Practice
- Tues, Mar 8: Shrove Tuesday Dinner/Children's Art
Show, 5:30 PM
- Wed, Mar 9: Ash Wednesday. Services @ 10:30 AM
and 7:30 PM
- Sun, Mar 13: First Sunday in Lent
- Wed, Mar 16: Lenten Series @St. Alban's, 7:00 PM:
"Created by God"
- Sat, Mar 19: Scouts in church, 2 PM ~ 5 PM
- Sun, Mar 20: Youth Choir Festival Worship, 7:00 PM
@ Good Shepherd Lutheran,
Gaithersburg, MD
- Wed, Mar 23: Lenten Series @ The Falls Church, 7:00
PM - "Seeing God Reflected In Others"
- Wed, Mar 20: Lenten Series @ St. Patrick's:
"Loving The Created
For The Sake Of The
Creator"
- Mar 25 ~ 26: Tinh+ to EAM Council Meeting in NY
- Wed, April 6: Lenten Series @ St. Barnabas:
"Living In Community,
Practicing Humanitarian
Values, Serving
Others"
- Sat, April 9: Trinity School Music Event,
5 PM ~ 9:30 PM





Lá Thư Mục Sư...

Kính gửi quý anh chị em tại Nhà Thờ Thánh Patrick:

Thấm thoát, tám tuần lễ đã qua sau ngày Giáng Sinh và Ngày Hiền Linh. Nắng ấm đã bắt đầu trở lại, chẳng mấy chốc chúng ta sẽ bước vào Mùa Thông Hối, Tuần Thánh và Mùa Phục Sinh. Giữa cuộc đời nổi trôi, chúng ta tìm nơi an trú trong Chúa. Hội Thánh là một cộng đồng đức tin, nơi chúng ta cùng thờ phượng và sinh hoạt với nhau để học hỏi và nhận được ơn phước của Chúa.

Mùa Hiền Linh năm nay kéo dài 8 tuần lễ, lâu hơn mọi năm. Các bài đọc Phúc Âm Mát Thêu trong những Chúa Nhật vừa qua chứa đựng lời dạy của Đức Giêsu: Bài Giảng Trên Núi về các phước lành và sự ví sánh người môn đệ Đức Kitô như muối và ánh sáng. Các câu nói của Đức Giêsu xem như ngược đời mà lại là những lời khôn ngoan giúp chúng ta có đời sống tốt. Sự dạy dỗ ấy thật là khó thực hiện; chẳng hạn như là ai và má bên này thì mình đưa luôn má bên kia, hoặc ai đòi lấy áo trong thì trao luôn cả áo ngoài cho họ. Sở dĩ có lời dạy ấy là vì người tín hữu đã thấy rõ cái phù du của đời, và tâm họ luôn luôn chỉ hướng về Nước Trời. Khi tìm được nơi an trú thật, ta không còn màng chi về những điều giả tạo và tạm thời.

Trong Mùa Giáng Sinh vừa qua, Hội Thánh chúng ta đã tích cực giúp người nghèo. Quan tâm đến người nghèo khổ là đích thực cho người theo Chúa. Mục vụ chính của Hội Thánh là giúp đỡ những người gặp khó khăn. Quan điểm của chúng ta là việc làm cụ thể quan trọng hơn lời nói hoa mỹ. Nhà Thờ chúng ta đã chính thức kết bạn với Trường Tiểu Học Westlawn, và được Fairfax County Schools công nhận. Trường này ở cùng khu vực với nhà thờ, và có

nhiều trẻ em nghèo. Trong ba năm qua chúng ta đã quyên góp người nhiều người ít để mua những "gift cards" cho phụ huynh các học sinh, để họ mua thực phẩm, vì nhiều em đến trường bụng đói. Nhân dịp Giáng Sinh, nhà thờ chúng ta gửi quà cho một số em nghèo -- ba gia đình Việt Nam và ba gia đình người Spanish. Các em đã vẽ card cảm ơn. Trong khi đi phát quà, bà Winnie Lebo đến nhà người Việt Nam gần nhà thờ thì gặp một hoàn cảnh rất bi đát: bà mẹ trẻ vì giải phẫu cột sống mà bị liệt hai chân, phải nằm luôn trên giường. Bà có 3 đứa con học ở Trường Westlawn. Bà phải giải phẫu là vì bị biến chứng sau tai nạn xe hơi ba năm trước. Khó khăn hiện tại là phí tổn MRI mà Medicaid không chịu trả, trước nhà không có lối đi cho xe lăn tay, và không có tiền để đặt mua khung niềng chân để tập đi. Hôm nay tôi đã cùng ba tín hữu đến thăm người bệnh này. Một tín hữu sẽ liên lạc với nhà thương để thương lượng về phí tổn chiếu điện, một hội đoàn Do Thái có thể giúp xây cầu trước nhà cho xe lăn tay, và Hội Thánh chúng ta sẽ gây quỹ để giúp mua khung niềng chân (brace) -- phí tổn này vào khoảng hai ngàn rưỡi đô la. Nếu quý anh chị em muốn đóng góp vào việc mua "brace" cho bà Việt Nam này thì xin liên lạc với tôi. Bất kể đóng góp được nhiều hay ít, đây là cơ hội chúng ta làm tốt cho chính mình, thực hiện điều Chúa muốn chúng ta làm. Chỉ trong một thoáng, tai nạn xe hơi đưa đến cảnh liệt bại cho một thiếu phụ trẻ tuổi. Tôi rùng mình, cuộc đời không có gì chắc chắn. Trong lúc tưởng rằng cuộc sống bình thường thì tai họa thành linh xảy đến.

Tất cả mọi điều xảy ra quanh ta đều nhắc ta về một chuyện rất quan trọng: đời vật chất sẽ mau qua, và ngoài Chúa chúng ta không tìm được nơi an trú. Chính vì vậy, trong cuộc sống đầy lo toan, càng ngày càng bận rộn túi bụi, chúng ta cần dừng lại tìm sự an tịnh cho tâm hồn. Chúng ta có thể dừng lại bất cứ lúc nào và ở mọi nơi. Chúng ta có thể cầu nguyện trong lúc làm việc, lúc lái xe hay dọn dẹp nhà cửa. Chúng ta có thể cầu nguyện lúc đi lễ hay ở nhà. Vào ngày Chúa Nhật, nếu không đến được nhà thờ thì cũng cầu nguyện -- cầu nguyện cho người đau yếu, cho người thân, cho cộng đồng nhóm lại thờ phượng, cho sự xao xuyên của chính mình -- đó chính là đồng lòng tham dự với cả Hội Thánh. Thánh Phaolô tóm tắt về đời hành đạo trong ba điểm: đức tin, sự trông cậy (hay hy vọng) và tình yêu thương; ông nhấn mạnh tình yêu thương là quan trọng nhất. Tình yêu thương đó, do lòng hướng về Nước Trời, có thể giúp chúng ta làm theo những lời giáo huấn rất ngược đời của Đức Giêsu. Tình+

We remember in our prayer:

Andrew Nicholson, Anh-Thu Tran, Molly Saviola, Anne & Thomas Edsall, 1Bob Aronstein, Kari Boeskov, Mary Anne Bogie, Mary Carper, Marie Cosimano, Hai Dang Do, Jane Chapman, Tim Clary, Dorothy Connelly, John Davis, Donald DeVaughn, Loretta Dougherty, Archie Ellis, Mary Farmer, Nance Finegan, Nic Franca, Thomas Garner, Luis Garay, Anne Goodwin, Jean Graham, Canedo Guillermo, Katherine Hafele, Margaret Ellis Harris, Bill and Betty Henderson, Eldon Paul Henry, Alek Hensley, Robert Herron, Cindy Hogman, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Michael Horn, Virginia Hughes, Angelina Jansen, Lindsay Johns, Gray and Bob Johnson, Jamie Kaplon, Robert Kelley, Quinn Kimball, Jeffry King, The Kontess Family, Wayne Langley, Susan Lawrence, Bau Le, Mary Catherine Luke, Joe Magrogan, Colleen Mavrikas, Michael Mills, Mary Monroe, Chester Hillis Patton, Que Nguyen, Chick Nixon, Keslie Nolan, Edward Oliver, Olive Oliver, Irene Pierce, Joann Piper, Faith Poole, Michael Price, Edna Rhoad, William Ross, Nora Searle, Bill Sitler, Irene Skowron, Karine Simpkin, Brian Smith, Candi Stewart, Kara Stryker, Jamie Stryko, Ruby Stryko, Steven Talbert, George Thomas, Clara Torres, George Torres, Michael Weekes, Mark and Heather Westfall, Paula Wiech, Meredith Wiech, Donna Wolfe, Peter Kosutic, Chris, Tasha, Mark Zimpel.

We pray for all U.S. personnel serving overseas, especially Cate Johnson and Galway Thomas.