

Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

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Holy Trinity is called to recognize, communicate and celebrate God's presence within, among and around us.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. RICHARD

Dear Friends,

We began the Epiphany season on Jan. 6 with the Visit of the Three Kings to the Christ-child; and thus began the celebration of the appearing of God's Glory in the midst of our lives! The teachings of Jesus gladden the heart with hope and compassion. His power to heal, and to dispel bad spirits alters lives otherwise losing the sense of what is healthy and happy. God's invitation to a life lived strong, loving, and wise.

An accident of the calendar will make Epiphany season intolerably short, so don't miss out on the awareness of Divine life all around us. Ash Wednesday is coming so soon (February 14) and the focus will shift to Lent and the long, inward look. And ultimately to God, found in our deepest selves.

All in all, it sounds like a "win-win" situation. Plan on coming to Eucharist on Ash Wednesday at either Noon or 7:00 PM, to "make a right beginning." May God grant, "so far is it lies within you," to engender relationships of peace and mutual regard. Let our excitement be in God who is love. I remain,

*Your friend and Rector,
(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore*



MEET THE VESTRY!
Come and meet your new vestry after service on Sunday, February 4!



Wednesday, February 14

12:00 Noon - Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

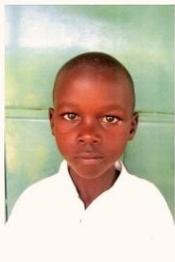
7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes



**Bishop Douglas Fisher to visit with Holy Trinity Church
11 March 2018**

Please plan on celebrating with Bishop Doug on Sunday, March 11, as he comes to spend the day with the Parish family. We look forward to his sharing the insights gleaned from his leadership in the larger Church and through community witness. Let us welcome him with Godly affection!

Lenten materials will be available on the Narthex table on Sunday, February 18.



CHILDREACH SPONSOR CHILD FOR 2018

The sign-up sheet has been placed on the back table of the church to help support Nicholas Onyango Okondo.

Please consider supporting this important ministry by signing up to sponsor Nicholas for a month (or two)

in 2018. The sponsorship is \$33.00 per month. A postcard will be mailed to you as a reminder that your donation is due. Thank you! Please make sure you note "Sponsor Child" on your check.



There will be a Lenten Prayer Study on Wednesdays during Lent at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 6:00 pm. The prayer study will start with a light soup and bread supper. For more information, please speak with our secretary, Chris Bolte.



**Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall
February 11 & 25**



When families come together to worship with kids in mind.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2-Tamsin Lucey 5-Nancy Waugh 18-Judith Reich 23-Emily Waugh

If you have a birthday this month and are not listed but would like your name to be included in our monthly Tidings for birthdays, please contact the office. Thank you!

THE MISSION PLATE

In twenty countries around the world and serving about two million clients, FINCA is a non-profit organization that provides microfinance loans to persons who do not have access to banks and their services. So many people struggling to support their families are unable to grow their businesses, send their children to school, and have clean water and a safe home.

But with a microfinance loan of \$25.00, entrepreneurs are able to achieve their goals, improve the lives of their children and strengthen their community. Many of these clients are mothers supporting their families! It could be that the mother sells nuts, but does not make enough to grow her enterprise. But a small loan can make all the difference. Please go online to read about FINCA and their mission.

If we can donate \$100.00 to FINCA we could support four microloans! Or maybe even more!

Thank you again for your thankful hearts and generosity. I have been helped so much in my life by others who gave me loans of time, money, caring and support. I know we can all relate to the impact of these "loans" and what they have meant to us. Let us "Pay It Forward." Thanks be to God.

Suzy Sharp, your member in Arizona!
[774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426)

Sunday Services Inclement Weather Closure Plan for Winter 2018

Every Sunday in January, weather permitting, there will be a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. Please know that if, due to inclement weather, it is deemed necessary to cancel the service or hold Morning Prayer instead, and the means to do so is in place, an announcement will be posted on the Holy Trinity Web page, Facebook, and an all parish email sent out.

Please consider the road conditions and parking availability when making your decision to attend the service. If you are in any doubt please contact either the Senior Warden—John Grant 860-923-9691 or 860-576-2148.
or
Jr. Warden—Diane Nichols 508-885-2934 or 774-230-0113

ALTAR FLOWERS DURING LENT

Please remember that there are no flowers on the altar during Lent. If you would like to place a Vigil Light dedication, please complete the flower donation form on the table at the back of the church.

**BIBLE AND WINE: A BIBLE BOOK STUDY
An Introduction to the Gospel of John
Wednesdays from 7:30-9PM**

February 7 @ BLC – Read John 11:1-44
February 21 @ HTC – Read John 31:1-35



YOU ARE INVITED!!

Tamsin Lucey and Susan Grant are turning 60 and are inviting the parish family for a birthday celebration dinner on **March 3!** An all-parish invite will follow with more details! Mark your calendar!

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, February 11, at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to join us in singing to the glory of our God and Savior. The choir will be singing on Sunday mornings and special services during Holy Week. I am hoping for an inter-generational choir. Any person who can carry a tune and can read is welcome to join us. We will rehearse until 11:45 or 12:00 at the latest. Thank you for considering joining us.

*"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."
~Martin Luther*



(Shrove Tuesday)
Pancake Supper

**Tuesday,
February 13**

Food served 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
in the undercroft (downstairs)
of the church.

Kids' crafts available.
Please contact Tamsin Lucey
(774-200-4279) if you are able to
help.



Sunday, February 4

There will be a wide variety of soup
available for purchase in the parish hall after
the service.

Suggested Donation:
Quarts: \$5.00; Pints: \$3.00.

Proceeds to go to Foodshare in Southbridge.

If you have any questions, or if you're
interested in making a pot of soup for the
event, please see Tamsin Lucey
774-200-4279.



Winter Parking on Hamilton Street

From now through April 1, Southbridge limits parking on Hamilton Street.
On EVEN dates: Midnight to 7pm, park on the ODD side of the street;
7pm to midnight park on the EVEN side of the street.
On ODD dates: Midnight to 7pm park on the EVEN side of the street;
7pm to midnight park on the ODD side of the street.

SR. WARDEN NEWS

Dear Parishioners;

It's with great humility that I've accepted the position of Senior Warden. Your trust has moved and inspired me. Although, I have some uncertainty as to my abilities and skills, I know that I can rely on past Senior Wardens, for assistance, advice, and counsel. Nancy Waugh has left the Vestry in excellent condition, as did Tamsin Lucey and all the others that came before them.

Our vestry is a committee with a range of invaluable skill sets, varied personalities, and most importantly a deep faith. I am deeply impressed as to how, after lively discussions and pointed questions, consensus is reached, with all moving together. I believe that this is a testament to our shared faith.

I start this position after having served as Junior Warden for the past two years and as a vestry member for two years before that. To think, I was accepted into the Episcopal Church a little more than five years ago, after having attended at my dear wife's, Susan's, side for five years prior.

The congregation of this parish, everyone from the established members to the young families, leaves me in awe. Our congregation is generous and kind. We are blessed with talented and loving people with whom we share the pews every Sunday.

If anyone in the congregation has any concerns please feel free to bring them to my attention. I may not know the answer, but I'll do my best to find an answer for you.

*Humbly and Faithfully, With Christ's Love, Your Senior Warden
John W. Grant*

HOLY TRINITY TREASURER'S REPORT 2017

Operating Budget

Income: overall income exceeded budget by \$14,542. Budget: \$125,301; Actual: \$ 139,843, after adjusting for prepaid 2018 pledges. Why?

- Fundraisers: \$189 over budget
- Rental income over budget by \$1,550
- Plate offering over budget by \$3,767
- Prayer Book dedication gifts of \$430
- Pledges were \$1,295 over budget with no arrearage, which was budgeted at \$4,400
- Checking interest \$199 over budget
- Other miscellaneous unbudgeted income
- Trust income was up by \$701. ½ of that was because we started taking distributions from the Legacy Fund, which has restricted use: “*Distributions from the fund therefore shall be limited to: (i) capital improvements of the PARISH; (ii) outreach ministries and grants; (iii) seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects;*”.

Expenses: overall expenses were over budget by \$4,626. Budget: \$125,301; Actual: \$129,927 Why?

- The capital improvement line is intentionally over budget as we moved ahead with the unbudgeted Kitchen renovation for a cost of \$21,911, which was offset by a Ministry Development Grant of \$6,625 from the diocese.
- Oil was close to budget, but money is put into the fuel fund reserve monthly because we have a large oil tank and we can take advantage of buying oil in bulk at a lower price.
- After vestry consideration, all lines over budget were paid for with reserve funds and income over budget.
- Many lines were under budget, some because funds were not needed and others because of frugal spending, which offset the overbudget lines.

Non-operating Budget

The non-operating budget contains un-budgeted funds received and designated or restricted for a particular mission or purpose.

- We received \$2,640 in donations to the **Holy Trinity Building Fund** in honor of Joe DiSalvatore's 60th birthday.
- A gift of \$50 was given to the **Holy Trinity Organ Fund**, a fund for maintenance and repairs.
- The net Income from the YMCA rental of \$16,950 (In addition to prior years rent in reserve) is now in the new **Holy Trinity Savings Fund**. 10% of the net income was put into a Mission Fund. **See * below.**

Memorials

- We received memorial donations in 2017 of \$765; most of this was given in celebration of Fr. Richard's 40th anniversary of ordination; \$500 was spent to purchase one station of the cross.
- We received a \$10, 037.86 memorial gift of life insurance from The Rev. John Miller, former rector of Holy Trinity Church. This windfall gift was put in the **Legacy Trust fund** held at the diocese per the endowment policy.

Outreach: Total \$13,957.36

- Childreach/PLAN \$395 was donated and sent to Childreach to sponsor Nicholas in Kenya.
- The 2017 United Thank Offering was \$710.83.
- The Good Friday offering was \$76 and sent to support The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East
- Food Share The 2nd Sunday loose plate for Food Share was \$506.63 with an additional \$200.50 from the “Souper Bowl” soup sale.
- The mission plate offerings were \$2,340.06 and were given to various missions (separate report).
- Parrettie Fund alms given to various people in need: \$7,844.30.
- The Rector's discretionary fund inflow for 2017 was \$2,400 funded from the Parrettie Fund, with \$1,884.04 given in alms to various people in need.

*The finance committee recommended, and vestry approved putting the YMCA Rental income into a “savings account” to be used for needs outside of the operating budget. 10% was tithed to Mission; there is \$4,095 in the Mission Fund.

- Electronic giving was discussed and approved by the vestry in 2016 and implemented in February 2017.
- Please see the Statement of Financial Position for the total financial picture.

*Respectfully Submitted, Susan Howland, Treasurer
January 5, 2018*

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Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

unless otherwise noted

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher
The Rev. Richard Signore

Tidings of Holy Trinity- February 2018

Save These Dates

Holy Trinity Church

Sundays in February after coffee hour—Confirmation Class

Sunday, February 4—11:00 a.m.—Souper Bowl of Caring Sale and
Meet the Vestry

Wednesday, February 7—7:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine—BLC

Sunday, February 11—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 13—5:30 p.m.—Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 14—12:00 Noon—Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 18—11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 21—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King

7:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine—HTC

Sunday, February 25—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

VESTRY MINUTES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE WWW.HOLYTRINITYSOUTHBRIDGE.ORG
/HOLY TRINITY NEWS/VESTRY NEWS