

# MAY TIDINGS

Volume 1, Issue 5

May 2019

**Holy Trinity Church**  
446 Hamilton Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
508-765-9559

holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com  
www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

**Rev. Richard Signore—Rector**  
(revholytrinity@gmail.com)  
**John Grant—Sr. Warden**  
**Diane Nichols—Jr. Warden**

## Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
HTC Lawnmowing	1
Financial Report	1
May Birthdays	1
John C. Dirlam Fund	2
Creation Care Corner	2
Mission & Outreach	3
Got Talent?	3
Office Hour Change	3
St. Luke's Guesthouse	3
Bishop's Easter Message	4



Dear Friends!

Easter is upon us, with all the joys of heaven! We reacquainted ourselves, again, through the season of Lent with the wilderness of human pride and prejudice. But now, God has acted to draw us into a new Creation. Our hopes are lifted by the rising Son of God, whose own battle was with interior doubt (Gethsemane) and the caste rigidity of the 1st century social

stratification ("can anything good come out of Nazareth?" or "he healed others, let's see him heal himself!").

Others have thought they knew the limitations of human aspiration; but in the company of our God there are no limitations. Prayer, the Spirit, and the Love of Justice develop as a single piece in the soul. We are led by the Christ of God, whose brave journey confronted death and all that makes for dissolution in life - to break those bonds, to bring New Life, beyond bounds! The liturgical

shouts of praise in thanksgiving for God's gift of victory will aid our faith when the challenges are great. These shouts teach us to recognize the power of God within us, and to love justice as a sign of the coming Kingdom. Jesus is risen! And we are delivered into the company of Saints, those who love each other in Christ.

May the Eastertide undergird our faith and increase our Joy!

I remain,

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

## Don't Forget!

- \* Food pantry items: Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, beef stew, soup, Spaghetios, soup mix (like Lipton's chicken noodle), Ramen noodles, spaghetti sauce.
- \* Bring in your soda cans and bottles and donate them to the Mission box in the Parish Hall!

## HTEC Lawn Mowing

Spring is here and soon the grass will grow. All we need now are volunteers to cut the grass weekly. If you are called to this ministry, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church by May 12. Thank you.



## Financial Reports

First Quarter Update from the Treasurer: At the close of the 1st quarter of 2019 overall budget vs. actual is good. This is partly due to many under-spent budget accounts. Pledges are, however, behind what we budgeted by about \$3,100, and we hope to see that improve in the next quarter. In Thanksgiving,  
Susan Howland, Treasurer

## May Birthdays

- 4—Aliana Bousquet
- 12—Gordon Adams
- 12—Anne Bouvier—Monroe
- 15—Sally Baum
- 28—Mary Hicks



## John C. Dirlam Fund Reestablished

John C. Dirlam was an early and long-time member of Holy Trinity Church. He and his family contributed generously to the upkeep of the church building, establishing an endowment fund in 1965. This fund enabled many projects including storm windows for the church, rectory heating, and church heating system repairs. The fund was closed in 1984 and the funds were used for the construction of the handicap access bathroom in the church.

Since the John C. Dirlam Fund was intended to be established as a permanent fund, the endowment committee, in consultation with John B. Dirlam, recommended its reestablishment with \$5,000 by restructuring our existing endowment fund. In February the vestry voted in favor, and the Fund was reestablished in March. The John C. Dirlam Fund will provide income for unbudgeted building repair, capital improvement or tangible assets

through the periodic distribution of income from the Fund. The Fund may be increased by additional gifts to Holy Trinity Church by the donor or others. We are most grateful to the Dirlam family for their continued support of Holy Trinity Church and its mission.

In Gratitude,  
Susan Howland, Treasurer on behalf of the Endowment Committee and Vestry

## Creation Care Corner

*We are called to do what is right, even if it requires more effort.*

*Creation Care issues for you to pray about and ponder on.  
Submitted by Tamsin Lucey*

Are you ready to create new habits to make a difference? Let's talk Single Use Grocery Bags...Get Ready for Change... The Town of Southbridge is serious about Creation Care. The Board of Health is moving forward with a by-law that will prohibit the use of "single-use grocery bags with handles". Get ready to take all your shopping home in paper bags or your own re-useable bags! Read more about Creation Care.... The Episcopal Church is serious about Creation Care. On the Website: [www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care) Presiding Bishop Curry invites us to Take the Pledge to Creation Care. Please reflect on

how God is leading you to renew your own relationship with Creation. What will you [pledge to do?](#) Visit the website <https://greenfaith.org> - People of Faith for a Green New Deal. Support the goals of the Green New Deal that uphold faith principles of truth & science; restoration & renewal; compassion & fairness; & interdependence across boundaries. Religious communities are coming together - read more about it by visiting the website [www.interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org) whose mission it is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. We can all do more..



Here is a program right in our community!

### Big Y Community Bag and Giving Tag Program

This program is designed to make it easy for shoppers to give back to their local community while supporting the environment. Each time a shopper purchases the **Community Bag** with the **Giving Tag**, they will have the power to direct a \$1 donation to a local non-profit of their choice within 7 days of their purchase.

Visit <https://bigy.bags4mycause.com/> for more information

## Mission and Outreach

Spring is evident in Green Valley. Wildflowers are in bloom, trees and shrubs have bright green new growth, and the birds are singing early in the morning waking me to a new day. I am sure Massachusetts is experiencing something similar.

With this in mind, I would like the donations to the mission plate to go towards Creation Care. I have been reading the messages from the diocese on

Creation Care and believe that there might be grants or other ways that our donations can be used. I am worried about climate changes, the impact on vulnerable people around the world, cleaner and more efficient energy sources,



and how each of us does or does not support the goals of Creation Care.

Our "island home" is a special place in our universe, created by God. Let us give thanks by supporting programs and policies that support Creation Care.

Suzy Sharp

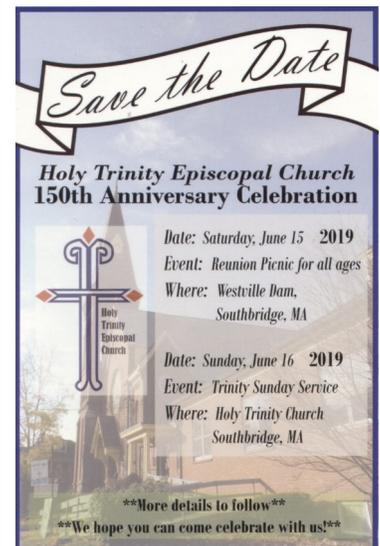
## Got Talent???

## If so, we want YOU!!!

Calling all Parishioners! Do you have a talent to share? Want to be included in the TALENT SHOWCASE at the 150th Anniversary Picnic on Saturday, June 15? Sure you do!!!! Committee member, Eileen DeMings, will be heading up a TALENT SHOWCASE featuring the talents of Holy Trinity. Start thinking about what entertainment YOU could provide! Please let Eileen (617-429-1798) know

if you'd like to be included. It's never too early to start practicing! All ages welcome!

The 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee is gearing up for a great celebration!!!! More updates next month!



## Office Hour Change

The week of May 6, the office will be open on May 7 only. The office will be closed on May 9.



## Donations Needed for St. Luke's Guesthouse

The Daughters Of The King will be collecting articles for St. Luke's Guesthouse & guests. We are looking for the following items: laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, large kitchen trash bags, & dish

detergent. These donations can be placed in the plastic St. Luke's bin at the back of the church.

Thank you for your support!



## The Bishop's Easter Message 2019

I'm hoping you have had a truly Holy Week. The liturgies and the scripture readings are so very powerful. I hope they touched your soul deeply. With all that, somehow I have found myself dwelling this Holy Week on a gospel we had back on the Second Sunday of Lent. "At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you. Jesus said to them, "Go and tell that fox, for me 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today, tomorrow and on the third day I finish my work... Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it. How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings."

Let's look at this imagery used by Jesus. He calls King Herod a "fox." In those days, "fox" did not symbolize "clever." In Jesus' time the word "fox" was a putdown. Herod thought he was a lion but Jesus is saying "you little weasel." You have no power over me. I have a job to do. And he compares himself to a mother hen protecting her chicks. That image took on new meaning for me after the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012. A 28 year old first grader teacher Vicki Soto literally draped her body over those of her young students. When the gunman came to her room he shot and killed her but she saved the lives of those students. Jesus uses that image to describe himself and his mission.

That image of the fox and the hen describes metaphorically what happens in Holy Week and what Easter means for us. The hen image - no one has done a better job with this image than the great preacher from Atlanta, Barbara Brown Taylor. I simply quote her insight:

"It may have looked like a minor skirmish to those who were there, but that contest between the chicken and the fox turned out to be the cosmic battle of all time, in which the power of tooth and fang was put up against the power of a mother's love for her chicks. And God bet the farm on the hen... Depending on whom you believe, she won. It did not look that way at first, with the feathers all over the place and chicks running for cover. But as time went on, it became clear what she had done. She had refused to run from the foxes, and she had refused to become one of them. Having loved her own who were in the world, she loved them to the end. She died a mother hen, and afterwards she came back with teeth marks on her body to make sure they got the point: that the power of foxes could not kill her love for them, nor could it steal them away from her. They might have to go through what she went through in order to get past the foxes, but she would be waiting for them on the other side, with love stronger than death."

Barbara Brown Taylor. "As a Hen Gathers Her Brood," *The Christian Century*, February 25, 1986, page 201

The message of Easter - love is stronger than death.

Happy Easter!

+ Doug

The Rt. Reverend Douglas J. Fisher  
IX Bishop of Western Massachusetts

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**Office Phone:** (508) 765-9559

**E-mail:** [holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)

**Web site:** [holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://holytrinitysouthbridge.org)  
(trinity)

**Office Hours:**

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

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**

**Save These Dates**

**Wednesday, May 8—7:00 p.m.—Vestry**

**Wednesday, May 15—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King**



Website



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Tithely—Giving