

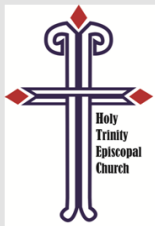


Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

April 2016

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

THANKSGIVINGS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

I look forward to learning about Jesus last supper at the Maundy Thursday Seder Supper. It looks like it is going to be a well-attended event with approximately 45 signed up. New traditions are being born at Holy Trinity. With the new tradition comes new growth in Christian education for those who will experience the educational Seder Supper.

Fresh new paint in the undercroft and thanks go to the painting crew. The new Building Committee was presented with the challenge of researching fire alarm systems. A big thank you goes to Susan Howland who met with the engineer at Holy Trinity and her attention to detail communicating to the vestry.

Soon our lawn crew will be mowing with the new lawn mower purchased at the end of the season. Thanks go to all the volunteers who have signed up on the lawn mowing Rota.

I wish you all a most joyous Easter. I look forward to the opportunities God has for Holy Trinity to be the hands and feet of Jesus on Hamilton Street.

*Nancy Waugh,
Senior Warden*

A MESSAGE FROM FR. RICHARD

This month we will share a message from the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church. I ask you to consider their concerns and their words of Godly admonition.

"We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others." March 15, 2016

The House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church, meeting in retreat, unanimously approved the following Word To The Church.

A Word to the Church
Holy Week 2016

"We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others."

On Good Friday the ruling political forces of the day tortured and executed an innocent man. They sacrificed the weak and the blameless to protect their own status and power. On the third day Jesus was raised from the dead, revealing not only their injustice but also unmasking the lie that might makes right.

In a country still living under the shadow of the lynching tree, we are troubled by the violent forces being released by this season's political rhetoric. Americans are turning against their neighbors, particularly those on the margins of society. They seek to secure their own safety and security at the expense of others. There is legitimate reason to fear where this rhetoric and the actions arising from it might take us.

In this moment, we resemble God's children wandering in the wilderness. We, like they, are struggling to find our way. They turned from following God and worshiped a golden calf constructed from their own wealth. The current rhetoric is leading us to construct a modern false idol out of power and privilege. We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others. No matter where we fall on the political spectrum, we must respect the dignity of every human being and we must seek the common good above all else.

We call for prayer for our country that a spirit of reconciliation will prevail and we will not betray our true selves.

The Episcopal Church House of Bishops met in retreat March 11 – 15 at Camp Allen Conference Center in Navasota, TX.

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Thank you for continuing to support this mission by placing donations of food in the Food Pantry Basket.

Each and every donation is a blessing to those in need. On Sunday, April 3, brown paper bags and a suggested shopping list will be on a music stand by the Narthex Doors. Please take a bag and shop from the list as you are able. Food returned by Sunday, April 24, will be blessed before going to the pantry that week. As we are blessed may we be a blessing.

Thank you for your continued participation in the ministry.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me".



Tamsin Lucey & Bill Nelson



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1–Karen Ballou
1–Anna Burns
5–Beverly Lavallee
6–Nolan Bachand
18–Susan Howland
19–Steven Anderstrom
23–William Nelson
24–Brenda Baker
27–Aaron Anderstrom
27–Patricia Bair

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!

HTEC LAWN MOWING



Spring is coming and soon the grass will grow. We have a new mower so there should be no mechanical issues. All we need now is 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. Thank you.
~Bill Nelson

CONFIRMATION AND BECOMING EPISOPALIAN GROUP

"Being Episcopalian" Youth and Adult confirmation preparation and refresher in the basic beliefs of the Church will meet on Monday, April 11 & 25 at 6:00 PM in Blakely Hall.

February 2016 Financial Report

We are two months into 2016 and the budget looks reasonable.

On the income side

- *Adjusting for prepaid pledges the pledges are behind budget by \$2,680.*
- *The plate "offering: other" is over budget.*
- *Last year's pledge was \$1,200, which is not budgeted.*

On the expense side

- *The over budget lines are:*
 - *building repair and maintenance and capital expense.*
 - *The electric bill is over budget by 65%; this is due to the YMCA rental. This was taken into consideration in the rent.*
 - *Both Christian Formation lines are slightly over budget.*
- *Oil and Insurance are paid once or twice a year; 1/12 of the budgeted amount is moved into a reserve fund monthly. (See statement of financial position)*
- *We will have the sewer bill to pay in March, \$1,200 plus \$225 for the emergency diagnostic call.*

Oil report

We started the 2015-2016 Season with 6,928 gallons. As of 2.1.16 we used 2,878 gallons and we have 4,050 left. It has been a fairly warm winter, but on average we have used 16 gallons a day with the YMCA in the building 5 days a week since December 1. Last year at this time the oil usage was 18.4 gallons a day on average. We got a price of \$1.45/gallon for 3,000 gallons, which will refill the oil tank; there is more than enough money in the Fuel Fund to pay this bill.

*Blessings,
Susan Howland, Treasurer*

UNDERCROFT PAINTING UPDATE

With many thanks to a small but very dedicated crew – the walls of the undercroft have been expertly painted – they look FANTASTIC. Hector will be painting the trim and doors over the next 3 or 4 weeks and then – we can finally say that the Undercroft will be all but done. All that will remain is to re-hang the pictures, and put up the notice boards and signs on the doors. We are fortunate enough to have some paint left over – and the painting crew are up for the challenge of painting the undercroft kitchen and kitchen annex – That project will be tackled in June. When you see Susan Grant, Lynn Garland, Roy Baum and Paul Aloia please thank them for their time and dedication to painting the Undercroft wall!

~Tamsin Lucey for the Building and Grounds Team.



NEW HTEC LOGO

I was honored when I was asked to design a new logo for Holy Trinity. It was a chance to pay it forward for the Fitzpatrick and Bement Scholarships I received from Holy Trinity and the Diocese. Tamsin explained that the vestry was looking for a logo that could be used for marketing and branding and also used on new letterhead. A logo that would be recognized by the community, the church and the un-churched.



My first thought in the process was that the cross is recognized by the church and un-church as being the symbol of Christianity. When I started designing I stopped when the vertical lines of the cross looked like a staff. The staff is used in the bible as a symbol of shepherding the flock and would represent the Holy Trinity Community. Then I added the three diamonds for the Trinity. I give credit to Tamsin for pointing out the diamonds are pointing out to the outside community.



My God moment came when my mother texted me a picture of the stain glass window in the church doors. I could not believe how similar the logo was. The stain glass windows on the sides of the church have a similar cross inside a diamond. I like to think I had help designing this new logo.



~Emily Waugh

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

April 10 and 24

When families come together to worship
with kids in mind.



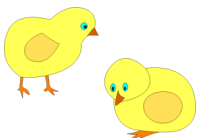
CHILDREACH SPONSOR CHILD FOR 2016

There are 3 months left to help support Nicholas Onyango Okondo. Please sponsor Nicholas for a month with a donation of \$30.00. Note "Sponsor Child" on your check. Thank you!

THE MISSION PLATE

I wonder how many chicks, ducklings and goslings we have in our Heifer baskets thus far. We are collecting donations through April for Heifer Project, so please put those coins and bills in the mission plate to celebrate Spring, Easter, and new beginnings!

I will be returning to Sturbridge on April 19th, and will see you all shortly after back at HTEC!!
HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL.



Suzy Sharp, [774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426)

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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

Holy Trinity Church

Sundays in March—11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 6—7:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study—See Fr. Richard

Sunday, April 10—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Monday, April 11—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation/Becoming Episcopalian Group

Wednesday, April 13—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting and Book Study

Wednesday, April 20—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King Meeting

Wednesday, April 20—7:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study—See Fr. Richard

Sunday, April 24—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Monday, April 25—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation/Becoming Episcopalian Group

OFFICE NOTES:

**Please note that the office will be closed on
Tuesday, April 19, Thursday, April 21, and
Tuesday, April 26.**