



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.

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Organist/Choirmaster: In Transition

Sexton:

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SENIOR WARDEN SPEAKING

My mother, used to say "don't count your chickens before they've hatched" We should always listen to our mothers! In July I reported that we had an expected closing date, for the sale of the rectory, of the end of July. I am humbled to say that sale fell through. The rectory is still on the market – I will report back as and when more information is available. On another note at the church; the leaks in the flat roof over the foyer have been fixed, the crack in the balcony wall and plaster work to the narthex window, and column in the foyer have all been completed, the paint may still be wet, but no structural issues were found! We are truly blessed and Joyous. "Thank you God". The vestry will continue to discern the best way forward with ongoing building issues.

The VBS team has been hard at work with their preparations and we are again truly blessed with generous support from the parish with sponsors and donations. This means, we can introduce to the children in our surrounding community, the same Love, Peace and Joy that Christ offers us. Thank you one and all for making Kingdom Rock VBS – Where Kids Stand Strong for God, possible.

For each Sunday in August we are blessed with supply priests to officiate at our 9:00 a.m. worship service of Holy Communion. We are indeed fortunate that they are willing to work with us and offer two special services – August 11th will be a Family Service – see details elsewhere in Tidings – August 25th School Bags and Back Packs will be blessed – see details elsewhere in Tidings.

Continued on page 2.....

Senior Warden Speaking continued from page 1....

The vestry continues to work diligently, currently discerning modifications to the boilers that should save us fuel and money, more about that in September.

Change is all around us – the summer will draw to a close and fall will follow – so things at Holy Trinity will change – we are not sure how – but we know with certainty that, through the Holy Spirit, that God is guiding us, to his preferred and promised future for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus on Hamilton St. Southbridge.

If you have comments, concerns or questions please know that I am always available via email abritinusa@gmail.com or cell phone (774)200-4279.

I remain your humble servant, With gratitude and blessings, Tamsin Lucey



AUGUST SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am-12 Noon.
(The office will be closed the week of August 19)

Stewardship: What we do with the gifts God entrusts to us.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kingdom Rock VBS is almost here! We are looking for help after church on August 4 to set up. Here is your opportunity to get involved! We will meet after coffee hour and make sure all our VBS teachers and group leaders have what they need to share God's love.

Also, we need a few people during the week to make some classroom set changes. Please see Eileen DeMings.

Lastly, continue to pray for our VBS campers and volunteers and consider sponsoring a camper. We are looking forward to our week together!

Eileen DeMings

eksullivan99@dpcv.org

[617.429.1798](tel:617.429.1798)

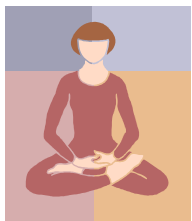
BLESSING BACKPACKS



The Sunday before School starts - Sunday August 25th - is a family Worship Service. Families will take part in their worship service as usual in the parish hall, rejoining the congregation at the Peace. At the offertory ALL STUDENTS, (children and adult) will be invited to bring their Back Pack/School Bag up to the altar and have them blessed, they will be collected at the end of the service.

Please remember to bring Back Packs and School Bags to church on Sunday August 25th!

"All Can Do Yoga" Classes



Ongoing "All Can Do Yoga" classes are offered at Holy Trinity Church in the parish hall on Wednesdays, 9 - 10:15am. This class is fun and will help you feel great, and all ages 12 and up are welcome! Each session offers 6 classes, the next starting August 14. The fee is \$50 for 6 classes, paid in advance, or \$10 per class for drop-ins. Everyone will need a yoga mat and blanket; yoga blocks are recommended but not required. Please contact Sharon to register or for more information.

[\(413\) 245-3474](tel:4132453474) or email palmer00013@gmail.com.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 - Pheobe Reith-Lowery
11 - Joel Khattar
11 - Emilyynn Bousquet
11 - Linda Spooner
13—Priscilla Reich
14 - Jared Burns
16—John Linton
17—Suzanne Sharp
20—Colleen DeMings
25—Ethan Anderstrom
25—Braden Bullard
25—Susan Lindsay

**VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS
ARE AVAILABLE BY REQUEST.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY,
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS
BOLTE, PARISH ADMINIS-
TRATOR, DURING OFFICE
HOURS OR BY EMAIL.
HOLYTRINITY-
SOUTHBRIDGE@GMAIL.COM
OR 508-765-9559
TUESDAY OR THURSDAY.**

LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY

Thank you for bringing food during July – 3 bags were dropped off at the Blessed John Paul II food pantry. Each month, we come **together** each with a “loaf or fish” and collectively we provide food that comprises a meal; protein, veg, starch, fruit, milk and juice. The Summer Salad recipes have been posted on the board and will be at the back of the church on Sunday Aug. 11th and 18th. Please take one or two, bring the food, and place it in the basket before Sunday Aug 25th.

*With Love, Peace and Joy in our hearts and Service & Ministry on our minds.
Pat Bair, Marlene Duke, Josh Spooner and Tamsin Lucey.*

Mid-year Stories from the Vestry and Finance Committee

This year of transition has been hard work, but guided by God's promised and preferred future for Holy Trinity Church. As the search committee goes about its task of finding a new Priest, the vestry has been tending to the day-to-day details of parish life. We saw the birth of Jones Reith-Lowry, celebrated the 90th birthday of our deacon Mary Hicks, while we mourned the death of Harold Baker. We saw the expansion of our church secretary's role to Parish Administrative Secretary: Chris now works with the parish treasurer and does bookkeeping in addition to her other duties. We said "Goodbye" to Ken Bisson, our sexton for eight years and said "Hello" to Hector Chapa our new sexton. During this time we were blessed to have a long term commitment from The Rev. Judith Freeman-Clark as our supply priest; Rev. Judith was not only with us Sundays, but gave significant administrative hours and pastoral support to the Vestry and others. And what church has two and sometime four organists who can serve on a Sunday; thanks to Dorothy, Lana, Gordon and Victor! There were a number of difficult and necessary decisions that were made, but also opportunities for stewardship of our parishioners, our property and the environment, and our total reliance on God. Here are a few stories.

The Parish

Over the last nine months countless people have stepped forward to make sure we kept the church open and available for all to worship. Everything from literally opening the doors on a Sunday to scheduling priests, setting the Altar, constructing the bulletin, scheduling organists, to shoveling snow have been undertaken with dedication and a strong faith in Christ. The task of the Wardens during this time is daunting; thank you Lana, Nancy and Tamsin! Holy Trinity parishioners have been faithful in their financial giving and their offerings of time and talent. We had a joyous Epiphany Supper, a Shrove Tuesday Supper, many nights of soup at the Gathering on Hamilton Street, with bible study to follow and on other Tuesdays, an energetic Yard Sale, a Community 4th of July BBQ, twice a month Family Worship, and an upcoming Vacation Bible School: Kingdom Rock, where Kids stand strong for God. There is a great team spirit here at Holy Trinity! And let's not forget the work of the Parish Profile Committee and the Search Committee who helped set the course for our continued journey.

The Rectory

The past few years showed us the challenge of putting our pre-1890 rectory into a habitable condition and at the same time face the realities of the parish being a landlord. After wrestling with the options the vestry decided to seek approval from the diocesan standing committee to sell the rectory and put the proceeds in an endowment fund; the income only will offset a clergy housing allowance. A vestry sub-committee formed to put this vote into action and the rectory is on the market. Part of the selling process was to have a buried oil tank removed from the property before it could be sold. With the help of Jeff Tasse from Tasse Fuel the tank was removed and the soil samples that were sent to the state for analysis came back clean of contamination. The cost was \$3,700 to have the tank removed, which included a \$900 environmental fee. We will be able to recover this expense once the rectory is sold. We had three offers on the property the first week it was listed. We took a cash offer of \$95,000, \$100 over the asking price, but unfortunately it fell through. There are other offers that are being considered and we are sure God has a plan for the rectory. The rectory is currently rented, so we do not have the liability of a vacant property and we have a small income that is set aside for urgent repairs should they become necessary.

The Church Heating System Project

The church is heated with oil and the cost of oil as we all know has gone up dramatically in the last 10 years. We are not in a position to change our heating system, an energy evaluation ruled out solar for our building, and the cost of gas conversion is out of our financial range at present. We were approached by Tasse with an offer the vestry has decided is too good to pass by. This fall we will have Tasse install a Burner Booster that Tasse will guarantee to cut our fuel consumption by 15% and maybe as much as 25% or they will remove the device and refund our money. The system is not inexpensive, \$10,500, but it is financed interest free over 5 years by the guaranteed 15% oil savings (\$2,000/yr at current prices.)

Continued on page 5.....

Mid-year Stories from the Vestry and Finance Committee continued from page 4.....

After five years we will spend at least 15% less on oil. The Burner Booster life is 20 years and will require annual maintenance just like the current burners. This is not only a cost savings, but will make an environmental impact by reducing the consumption of fossil fuel.

The Church Building

Did you know that our church building was built in 1869? That means it will be 150 years old in 2019. Our building really is an antique and will require continuous time and money to keep it in good repair. If our identity as an Episcopal Church on Hamilton Street in Southbridge is in this building we will all need to be intentional about keeping up with the repairs and renovations that must be done. We can not say, "When are they going to fix the building.." We must all take a stewardship interest in the building.

In 2013 we budgeted for a ½ time priest. Every month we do not have the financial cost of a settled priest, the excess money is put aside for: the search committee, into a fuel fund so we can buy a large quantity of oil at the lowest price (Our tank holds 7,500 gallons), and into a building repair fund. There is \$1,500 in a search committee fund, \$6,000 in a fuel fund and \$8,500 in a building repair fund. (*See the Budget vs. Actual and Statement of Financial Position for more details.*)

We have already updated the emergency exit signs and emergency lighting throughout the church and parish hall. We currently have a "phase" plan to proceed with the necessary repairs to the church: **Phase #1:** Fix the leaking flat roof over foyer, fix cracked plaster in balcony and evaluate crack for structural damage, and fix cracked plaster on foyer wall and narthex window. **Phase #2:** restore the portico/canopy over main entrance and fix base of columns at foyer entrance and paint these areas. **Phase #3:** fix basement window and water damage in downstairs ladies room and re-point the brick at the front of the church. The vestry accepted a bid for \$750 to fix the flat roof and that is completed. We accepted a bid to do the balcony and plastering jobs for \$6,635.00, and that work will start the end of July. We have enough money set aside to complete these repairs as estimated. If there is no structural damage to the balcony we will move to Phase #2....watch for details!

We thank everyone for their continued prayers and support!

Susan Howland, treasurer and finance committee chair.

June Financial Summary at the 6 month mark:

Income

Income is \$1,350 ahead of budget. after adjusting for a special donation to a flower fund. This increase is primarily from plate income and paid up last years pledges. Current year pledge is under-paid by \$375 ; the figure is an average of overpaid, paid-up, and pledges in arrears. Rental income is down.

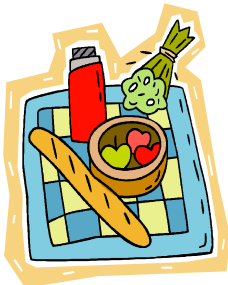
Expense

Many lines are under budget, some because they are seasonal or once a year and have not been expended yet. The most obvious, as all year, are the clergy and organist lines. We continue to set aside the excess funds for the search committee, a fuel fund, and building reserve, and we have paid the upfront costs of selling the rectory (See separate report.). There is enough free cash in the checking account to pay for the budgeted lines as expenses come

THE MISSION PLATE

August is here, and I need your help in planning ahead for where our mission donations will go for the next five months. I do not want to make the decision alone. I need your ideas and input, because if we feel strongly about a mission, then the donations will follow. Thus far our mission plate donations have helped tornado victims in Oklahoma and make possible one week of day camp at Camp Foskett for a boy or girl. And in the past we have donated for many causes such as earthquake survivors in Haiti, malaria prevention nets, Plumpy Nut food supplement to fight starvation and malnutrition. Please pray about this, and let the Holy Spirit guide and direct us to that mission where we can make a difference in the lives of others in need. Then speak with me, call or E-mail me with your suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Suzy Sharp, Coordinator of Mission and Outreach
508 347-9619, sharpgiberson@earthlink.net



CHURCH PICNIC

September 15, 2013

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Holy Trinity and Bethlehem Lutheran Church are planning a church picnic together. More information will follow in the September Tidings and bulletins.

CELEBRATING YOUTH

Please join us on Sunday, August 11, at 9:00 a.m. for a Holy Eucharist Family Service. This service will involve the youth in our congregation as we celebrate and recognize the culmination of Vacation Bible School, Kingdom Rock, "Where Kids Stand Strong for God". For this family service, children will process in with Crosses, do the readings, there will be a children's sermon, we will recite together the Children's Apostles Creed, Confession of Sin and Prayers of the People, the children will sing for the offertory and process out with their crosses. We invite you to come and share in the many blessings and joys of the youth in our midst.



**THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE
WORSHIP SERVICE IN
AUGUST.—9:00 a.m.**

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SOUTHBRIDGE**

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446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

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446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Office Phone: (508) 765-9559

E-mail: holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com

Web site: holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Summer 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

9:00 a.m. Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist

Save These Dates

August 5-9 @ 9:00am—Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, in August—7:30 p.m.—Bible Study

Sunday, August 11—9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist Family Service

Monday, August 12—6:45 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, August 14—9:00 a.m.—Yoga

3:45 p.m.—Daughters of the King

Monday, August 19—7:00 p.m.—Stewardship Prayer Group

Sunday, August 25—9:00 a.m.—Family Worship & Blessing of

Backpacks