



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

December 2012

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ANNUAL MEETING AND VESTRY NOMINATIONS

At Holy Trinity's annual meeting, on the 3rd Sunday of January, reports from 2012 and plans for 2013 will be presented. At this same meeting, members of the parish are elected to the vestry – the governing body of Holy Trinity Church, which meets monthly to make decisions and chart the course of our spiritual and temporal life together as Christians in this community. Parish members are also elected to represent us and vote on our behalf at the Diocesan convention and the Ecumenical Fellowship Community EFC.

Everyone in the parish is part of this process – you are invited to prayerfully consider who you would like to be on the vestry and who will represent us at Diocesan convention and on the EFC.

Any parishioner may submit the name (including their own) of any “communicant in good standing” (over the age of sixteen, confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, worships regularly, and is a supporter of record). Names should be placed on the offertory plate or given to any current vestry member. Please do this BEFORE Dec. 30th.

Those whose names have been submitted will receive a letter advising them of their nomination and be contacted in person and given the opportunity to meet, ask questions and discuss the expectations of the position for which they have been nominated. They are asked to give prayerful consideration to the nomination before giving their response to either the senior (Lana Pieczynski) or Junior Warden (Nancy Waugh).

Annual Meeting and Vestry Nominations continued on page 2...

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

The resultant list of nominees will be presented at the Annual Meeting when the elections takes place.

Please do not hesitate to talk with any of the current Vestry members, Convention delegates and or EFC representative about this process and opportunities to serve God here, at Holy Trinity.

We are called to worship God, here, at Holy Trinity Church. We are centered in prayer and ask that you join us in our prayer that God will guide us to those he would have lead us towards his vision us.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JUDITH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The season of Advent is one of waiting, hoping, and listening. It is a season of expectation, a season of formation, a season of contemplation.

But despite God's call that we wait, hope, and listen during Advent, after Thanksgiving we're often frantically focused on lots of things to do (and lots of things to purchase). In the days leading up to Christmas, we also may receive many invitations to festive open houses, to office parties, to special meals with friends and family. If we don't attend all of these events, we worry that some will say about us: "What a Grinch!! Where's his or her holiday spirit?"

Being distracted by too much planning, too much partying, too much shopping, can deny us a great and simple pleasure: joyful anticipation. Yet unless we give ourselves permission to sit, to wait, to be still, we may be too weary to enjoy December twenty-fifth when it *does* arrive.

Living simply can be a challenge in a society where instant gratification is seen as a right and a privilege. It can be hard to wait, and keeping Christmas *out* of Advent is a tough job! Everything seems to conspire against those of us who want to live quietly during the four weeks leading up to Christ's birth.

To step away from the frenzy of over-spending, over-eating, and over-doing-it, takes courage and discipline. But it can be done. On the four Sundays of Advent in year C, we take heart from the words of the prophets Baruch, Jeremiah, Micah, and Zephaniah, each of whom speaks of what *will be* and of what we are *looking forward to*. Last December, in Advent year B, we heard Isaiah's prophetic voice speaking to God and saying: "we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."

What a helpful image to hold in our hearts and minds throughout Advent! We are not created instantly--, instead, we're molded, like clay, deliberately and carefully over time. And because each one of us is the result of deliberate and careful work by our Creator, it is reasonable for us to give God time and opportunity to shape us slowly, so we become the best we can be.

We are made in God's image. This tells us that we do have the capacity to be still, to prepare, to contemplate. Advent is designated as a special season in the church year, given to us so we may claim (or reclaim) this God-given capacity for waiting. I pray that all who are gathered here as Holy Trinity Church in Southbridge will live serenely and quietly, in hope, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus the Christ.

Peace, Judith +

HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us to celebrate the Birth of our Saviour on December 24th at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary at Holy Trinity! The Rev. Kathryn White will be our guest priest and will be leading a Eucharist Service. Our Family Worship group will be presenting a special Christmas Story puppet play to illustrate the Gospel lesson for the service. This will be a wonderful candle-lit service with Christmas hymns and children involvement. Feel free to bring the whole family and friends as well!

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Something new for Holy Trinity church! On Sunday Dec 16th at 4:00 p.m. please join us for a traditional service of Lessons and Carols. What is this service you ask? - Well, just that! Lessons (readings) and carols (songs) telling the story of Jesus's birth. The congregation will have the opportunity to sing all the favorite carols of Christmas! There is nothing else, just listening and singing! Invite family and friends to join you for a Christmas service that will be relaxing, joyful, and uplifting, new and different but traditional and familiar as well!

Hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the church after the service. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m. for this lay-lead family service. Questions: contact Bridgette Bachand, Dorothy Frisch, or Tamsin Lucey.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASSES AT HTC

The successful community-outreach-1-hour-Zumba-fitness-classes continue every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. Scheduled cancellations will be announced in the Sunday Service Bulletins and on the Holy Trinity Web site. Snow cancellations will follow the Southbridge High School after-school activities - if they are cancelled, so is Zumba. No class on Wednesday, December 26th. Zumba is an energetic, done at your own pace, Latin dance exercise program. Come join the fun – 16 and over!
Questions? See Bridgette Bachand or Tamsin Lucey



GATHERING ON HAMILTON STREET OFFERS CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Please join us on Tuesday, December 4th and Tuesday, December 18th between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for some hot and hearty homemade soup. Family Worship starts at 6:00 p.m. and Bible Study starts at 7:30 p.m. On December 4th at 6:30 p.m., after Family Worship, we will gather around the piano to sing the Christmas Carols that will be sung at the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 16th. Celebrate the season in the traditional way – singing carols. Please plan to join us on December 4th and December 16th. Anyone interested in helping to make soup is welcome to come any time after 4:00 p.m. ~Tamsin Lucey

Youth Christian Formation

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

2nd / 4th Sundays 10:15 am and 1st/3rd Tuesdays 6:00 pm

** We are presenting a special Christmas Story puppet play for the 4th Sunday in Advent (Dec. 23) during our normal family worship time and for our Christmas Eve service. The children will be creating puppets and props in preparation for the play during our Tuesday night Family Worship times. If you would like to help in this creation process, please feel free to join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights during Advent and have a bowl of soup as well!

The Greening of the
Church for Christmas
will be Sunday,
December 23rd, after
the 10:15 service.

"MEAL-IN-A-BAG" MINISTRY FOR THE ST. MARY'S FOOD PANTRY

We continue to support St Mary's Food Pantry by donating meals in a bag. Each month, we come **together** each with a "loaf or fish", and collectively we **provide** meals for a family in need. This ministry only exists because of the support from parishioners. Each bag contains canned ham, chicken, or tuna, 2 cans of vegetables, rice, potato, or pasta, bisquick, canned fruit, jell-O, or pudding, juice, milk, a menu, and a recipe. The labels for ingredients to the winter recipes are now on the board at the back of the church. Please take a label or two from the board and bring the food to church for the 4th Sunday – December 23rd.

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 - Heather Bousquet
4 - Marion Piltzecker
7 - Jean Lyon
11-Mick Kalber
11-Violet Spooner
11 - Mary Burns
16 - Mary Aloia
17 - Bill Pieczynski
24-Rev. John Lindsay
25-Jesus Christ
25-Carol Hanson
25-Ed Bair
30-Ada Mae Crosbie

If we are missing anyone or have the wrong date for this month's list, please contact the office.



HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE
SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16, 2012

Could you please bake some of
your favorite Christmas cookies
to sell at the cookie sale?
Or, come and buy a selection
For Advent and Christmas.

Proceeds will go for outreach!

Drop off will be Sunday morning 12/16 or by other arrangement.
Questions? Call or email Susan Howland or Tamsin Lucey.



OFFICE HOUR CHANGES FOR DECEMBER

The office will be closed the week of December 10th. For the week of December 24th, the office will be open on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS



During Christmas services this year, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for His blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office **by Sunday, December 16th**. The money for these memorials is used for flowers given to God's glory as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

Exact wording of memorial will be: Christmas gifts for flowers are given to the Glory of God...

If this gift is in memory of one who has died, choose one of the following:

_____ in Thanksgiving for the life of _____
(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

_____ in Loving Memory of _____
(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

If this gift is in Thanksgiving of a living person, choose the following:

_____ in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of _____
(Name of person or blessing)

ALL DEDICATIONS: PLEASE NOTE WHO THE MEMORIAL/THANKSGIVING IS GIVEN BY:

Given by _____

(Your Name/Names -Please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, "by his family" or "by her husband" followed by your name or you may simply use your name(s).]

Please return this information sheet, along with your offering (no donation is too small), to the church office or drop it into the offering plate by **Sunday, December 16th**. Please make checks payable to **Holy Trinity Church** with the notation "*Christmas Memorials*" on the memo line. **Do you know someone who would appreciate Christmas flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so that the Altar Guild can arrange to bring them flowers:

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 20, 2013

9:00 AM-10:00 AM - Presentation of the 2013 budget

**11:30 AM - Brunch and continuation of meeting,
including elections**

"Thank you to ALL those who
helped make the pies! Your
help was significant - together
we did it! Everything is
Possible with God!"

MUSICAL NOTES FROM OUR GUEST ORGANIST – DOROTHY FRISCH

In this interim period, we are taking the opportunity to try some new things! If you like to sing, you are cordially invited to join our pre-service hymn sing at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday in December. We will run through the hymns of the day so that you will enjoy them that much more when we sing them in the worship service. Any and all singers are welcome!

On the afternoon of December 16th, our church is going to offer a service of Lessons and Carols to the community. We will sing many familiar and favorite carols. But we'd also like to have a few special numbers. If you or a small group would like to offer a carol for this occasion, please speak to Kurt or Dorothy Frisch soon! Or if you would like to offer something for one of our upcoming 10:15 a.m. services, we would be happy to hear from you--please let us know!

LETTER FROM THE 2013 DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Fellow Holy Trinity Parishioners,

Holy Trinity has an exciting future ahead of us.... And you are part of that future!

As you know, we have spent the last couple of months going through a discernment process of listening, praying and dwelling in the Word to determine the course for our parish and start to plan for our 2013 budget. We started with a parish-wide meeting in August to reflect upon our current mission, the budgetary matters before us, our personal and parish stewardship, the Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) process and how all of these pieces might be working together to point us towards God's preferred and promised future for our parish.

We followed up the meeting in August with small geographical group meetings where we had a chance to explore these items in a more personal, conversational environment. Each group facilitator shared the collective discussions at our October vestry meeting and the summaries of those notes are listed below. Thank you so much for this input; not only is the input helpful as we plan our 2013 budget, but it will be used by the Parish Profile committee, as creating the parish profile is the first step in finding a new rector.

In previous years, the budget committee met in early December, reviewed previous budget vs. actual numbers and put together a proposed budget for the vestry's approval by late December. The vestry-approved budget was then presented to the parish at the annual meeting in late January. This year we have taken a different approach. As part of a year-round stewardship program we started by careful listening and collectively discerning God's path for us; and, because we feel so many important decisions are facing our parish we started the budget discussions months before the budget committee convenes. This decision was made even before the Gustafson's knew they were retiring, and it is even more important at this stage of transition.

You can help Holy Trinity Church by submitting your commitment card as early as possible. This will help us accurately plan our budget but more importantly, it will help us to make some decisions regarding the future of Holy Trinity Church. How can we be good stewards of the many blessings God has provided us? Can we continue to support a full-time rector or is God calling us to a future with a part-time rector? What decisions need to be made regarding maintenance and use of our church building and rectory? Your commitment will help turn our dreams into God's preferred and promised future.

We made some great strides with our own parish-wide stewardship responsibilities replenishing endowment funds that were used in the past to balance operating budgets. The funds in the Holy Trinity Endowment are now all "restricted" to income only and not available to use if our budget expenses exceed our actual income during the course of the year. We have also created a new Holy Trinity Legacy fund to continue the effort to provide for the long term future of Holy Trinity Church's work as so many of our predecessors have done.

I want to thank you again for being part of this discernment process and encourage you to prayerfully reflect on how God is calling you to give your time, talents and treasure. Stewardship is **NOT** about balancing our budget, but rather about using our resources wisely and about how giving out of thankfulness to God can have a profound affect on spiritual health and deepen our relationship with God.

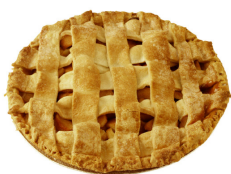
Please continue to pray for our parish and the work that God has set before us. It is a very exciting time for Holy Trinity!

In Christ, Lana Pieczynski, Sr. Warden

On behalf of the 2013 Discernment Committee: (Representatives from Buildings and Grounds Stewardship Team, Finance Committee, PMC Committee, Stewardship Prayer Team, & Vestry)

CHRISTMAS PIES

Take the stress out of dessert for Christmas. Traditional Apple and Dutch Apple Pies, Apple Crisp, Pumpkin and Pecan Pies are available for Christmas. All you have to do is cook or reheat them! Please look for the order forms in the Sunday service bulletins. If you receive Tidings online, you can print and use the attached order form. Don't forget to invite neighbors, friends, family and co-workers to place an order as well!



All proceeds support the operating costs of Holy Trinity Church.

~Tamsin Lucey (508)347-1414 or abritabroad@charter.net

GEOGRAPHICAL GROUP REPORTS

Southbridge Woodstock- Jean, Laura: 18 people including three leaders.

They read the questions from the discernment meeting; a few comments/questions were: Southbridge schools have improved. People do not seem to be afraid or panicked. Questions about what a part time priest looks like; it was nice to see a good turn out as everyone has the responsibility to contribute thoughts and ideas.

Sturbridge - Susan, Tamsin: 9 people including two leaders.

There was a sense that we have been here before and we will be here again. There were questions about part time vs. full time priest. Overwhelming desire to have a priest who preaches the Word, who is child friendly, and welcoming of the diverse gender group that we have at Holy Trinity. Questions about clergy salary and responsibilities, especially if part time. People were interested in the cost.

Fiskdale, Brimfield, Holland, Brookfield - Lana, Linda; 4 people including two leaders.

Discussion about a part time priest; what kind of inspiration might come from that priest, whether we can support a full time priest; whether we can afford a full time priest or not we need to be more intentional about spending and being good stewards of our money. There was discussion about breaking challenges into bite size pieces, to make them more doable, especially financial; example: "this is a \$25 project, can someone take it on." Energy conservation ideas discussed were: possibly consolidating the two services into one; meeting in the Parish Hall a few times in the winter.

Charlton, Overlook – Nancy: 9 people including two leaders.

People came looking for information about what will be happening in the transition and afterward. They are already a community themselves, most are not long-time parishioners except Mary Hicks. They read the questions from the discernment meeting. Their primary concern is about continuing the once a month Eucharist at the Overlook. Nancy is looking at what best time/day is good for them, if the supply priest will be available and if not would someone else be available. Laura said she and Pastor Mary are working to expand her LEV ministry, which would include the Overlook.

EPIPHANY POT LUCK SUPPER—JANUARY 6, 2013

Several years ago, Holy Trinity started a new tradition: The pot-luck supper on the Feast of the Epiphany. This church feast day celebrates the arrival of the Three Wise Men, otherwise known as the Three Kings or the Magi, at the stable in Bethlehem to worship the newborn Christ Child. Traditionally on Church Feast days the congregation comes together to share a meal. To celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the 12th day of Christmas/ the last day of Christmastide, plan on joining your Holy Trinity Family for supper in the parish hall. More details to come in the January Tiding's!

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH PARISH PROFILE SURVEY

The Holy Trinity Profile Committee, charged with composing and designing an accurate and compelling description of our parish community, would appreciate your help in completing a survey. Much of the information gleaned from your responses, including, we hope, unattributed quotes, will be included in a final profile document to be made available to all Episcopal priests looking for a church. We ask that everyone in the parish 12 years old and over please take a few prayerful minutes to respond to the attached survey questions before December 9. The survey can also be completed online at www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org, or, for those whose email addresses we have, through Survey Monkey. Completed paper surveys should be mailed to the church or put into the box in the Narthex. Electronic surveys should be emailed to Eileen Demings eksullivan99@dpcv.org, or to Tamsin Lucey abritabroad@charter.net.

Holy Trinity Church, Episcopal
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Office Hours:

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

unless otherwise noted

Guest Preacher & Celebrant:

The Reverend Judith Freeman Clark

The Reverend Mary Hicks, Retired Deacon

The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts

The Rt. Reverend Gordon Scruton

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist (said)

10:15 a.m. Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist

Save These Dates

Saturday, December 1—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet

Monday, December 3—6:30 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, December 4— 4:00 p.m.—Gathering on Hamilton Street

6:00 p.m.—Family Worship

7:00 p.m.—Christmas Carol Singing

7:30 p.m.—Bible Study—HTC

Wednesday, December 5—6:15 p.m.—Zumba Class

Saturday, December 8—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet

Wednesday, December 12—3:45 p.m.—Daughters of the King

6:15 p.m.—Zumba class

Saturday, December 15—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet

Sunday, December 16—ECW CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

4:00 p.m.—Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, December 18—4:00 p.m.—Gathering on Hamilton Street

6:00 p.m.—Family Worship

7:30 p.m.—Bible Study—HTC

Wednesday, December 19—JANUARY TIDINGS DEADLINE

6:15 p.m.—Zumba Class

Sunday, December 23—11:15 a.m.—Greening of the Church

Monday, December 24—4:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service