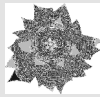




Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

December 2014 In This Issue



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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,

The Advent season is now here, and with it an opportunity to "draw close to God while God wills to be found," as the saying goes. Traditionally associated with the quiet and meditative arts, making room for God in spite of the rush before Christmas, Advent is time to carve out space for finding God anew. We have our formal bible study, happily shared in conjunction with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. And our Taize worship, also shared; twice in December. The Advent wreath, used in the home, perhaps as the grace at mealtime, also makes the season a daily walk into the mysterious presence of God.

Perhaps there are favorite places you go to, where you can re-connect with the creative energy of God's life. Your wood shop, carving forms; delighting in God's design. The tool bench, where the broken is made whole; and displays the parallel impulse in God's love for us. When a youngster, I used to experiment with all manner of discarded old items - to build unheard of combinations. And this produced a meditative centering which in turn made me hunger for Author of it All. So spend a little time on yourself this Advent, in bible, prayer, song, and playfulness! In the silence, you may just find the laughter and gladness of God.

With every wish for your blessed Advent season, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore

Senior Warden Speaking

So... the New Year is beginning - the new church year that is. Advent is upon us, the waiting for Christmas begins and what joyful waiting that waiting is. There is much going on this Advent, both in the "world" around us and at Holy Trinity Church. Please read elsewhere in Tidings the details of the many activities at HTC and plan to make time to join us as you are able. But most of all, let us all joyfully celebrate the best birthday of all, that of Jesus's. This year, "UNFROZEN" A Christmas Story, will tell the traditional nativity story a little differently - come see what that is all about: Sunday, December 21, 4:00 p.m. Perfect for children - 0 to 101.

This time last year I wrote of how the parish was keen to support several ministries - including Family Worship and local outreach. That we were keen to be good stewards of our building, keen to get to know Fr. Richard and Nina and to build relationships with them and each other. That the parish was keen to find ways to encourage people to share their gifts and talents and come together for church gatherings and share children's events with and in the local community. Well folks, as you reflect on all that has happened this year - reflect on what has happened at Holy Trinity this year. I think it is safe to say that we have moved forward in all those areas: And we are not done yet - we are continually exploring ways to engage with each other, encourage and uplift each other in service and ministry. Fr. Richard and the vestry are empowering lay leaders among us to move forward with new and exciting ways of doing - being church, of being the hands and feet of Jesus on Hamilton St., of moving forward, guided by the Holy Spirit, towards God's Promised and Preferred Future for Holy Trinity. As always, please - never failing, continue to pray for Fr. Richard, Nina, the vestry and all those in lay leadership.

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.

Tamsin Lucey

You cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do.

Hot off the press!



15 new, light weight, durable tables have been purchased for the Parish Hall and a storage dolly to keep them on!

OFFICE HOURS



The new office hours are:

**Tuesday & Thursday
9am-12Noon.**

The week of December 8, the office will be open only on Thursday.

The week of December 23, the office will be open on Monday and Tuesday.



SHARE ADVENT TRADITIONS & MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH

All materials supplied.

Come either

Sunday, November 30 @ 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall
OR

Monday, December 1, drop in between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Simple supper of soup will be available

Holy Trinity and Bethlehem Lutheran "Bible Literacy" discussion group

Biblical Literacy is the text used for the bible study Holy Trinity is doing in tandem with the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. There are two discussion groups each comprised of HTC and BLC parishioners. The next session is a large group pot-luck supper on

Wednesday, December 3rd, at 6:30 PM here at Holy Trinity church.

The groups will eat together, and then split into two groups for the discussion. On January 21st, the HTC based study group will be held in the home of Lynn Garland at 7:00 PM.

"Biblical Literacy," by Timothy Beal, is available in book stores or through on-line suppliers.

If you have any questions or you would like to join please contact Fr Richard.



Advent Taizé Service

Join us for a quiet service of
meditation, reflection, readings, and music.



Taizé services are primarily for the worship of God but are also meant to quiet the soul.
Then we may be still and be at peace in the presence of God.

Wednesday Dec. 10 at 7:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
345 Main St. Sturbridge

Wednesday Dec. 17 at 7:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge.

ADVENT MATERIALS

On Sundays Nov. 23 & 30, advent materials for all to use will be available at church. Families should once again look for a "pack" with their name on it! Boxed, "ready to go" Advent wreaths will also be available for those unable to attend the advent wreath making work shop.

UNOS DOUGHRAISER

The UNOs Doughraiser was a success! Together we raised \$108 for Ebola relief in Africa. Thanks to all that came out to eat in November!

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE
SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 14, 2014
following the 9:30 a.m. service



Please bake some of your favorite Christmas cookies to sell at the cookie sale.
Or, come and buy a selection for Advent and Christmas.

The proceeds will support the Mampong Children's Orphanage in Kumasi, Ghana; "Change the Babies" - is a project of Betsy Fisher, the Bishop's wife. You can read more about this project else where in this edition of Tidings

Drop off cookies Sunday morning 12/14 before the 9:30 a.m. service or by other arrangement. Questions? Call or email Tamsin Lucey abritinusa@gmail.com ~ 774-200-4279



Join us in the age old tradition of greening the church.
Sunday December 21, 11:00 a.m. — 12:00 Noon
We decorate the sanctuary with "greens", adorning the windows, pews, advent wreath, lectern and altar. Bringing the symbol of life into the sanctuary is an age old tradition symbolizing the new life in us as we celebrate Christ's birthday.

Afterwards join us in the parish hall for a lunch of soup and dessert!

HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us to celebrate the Birth of our Savior on **December 24 at 4:00 pm** in the Sanctuary at Holy Trinity! At this Family Eucharist Service, the Gospel lesson will be presented as a Children's Nativity by Family Worship members. This lovely candle-lit service with Christmas hymns is the party at which we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
Please invite your whole family and friends to join us!

Starting a New Tradition Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 28, join us at 9:30 a.m. for the second year running for... something a little different ... a service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion. Why is it a little different? We have done Lessons and Carols before and there is nothing usual about Holy Communion – well it's that the two don't usually get combined! So come sit a while in the pew, listen to Lessons (readings) and sing Carols (songs), all the favorite ones, that tell the story of Jesus's birth. Then afterward share in the best gift of all – Holy Communion. 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!



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 21**. 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 21**. 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:**



SAVE THE DATE!



EPIPHANY POTLUCK AGAPE MEAL
Including Family Eucharist, in the Parish Hall
JANUARY 6, 2014

We will have the liturgy following the text recorded by Hippolytus (Deacon in Rome, 115 AD) followed by a supper and celebration!!!

More details to come in the January Tidings!

STAY CONNECTED - LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SOUTHBRIDGE

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Because you continue to bring food to church, we continue to support the Food Pantry at St. John Paul II. Thank you for caring for those in need. As we move into the winter months, the need for food at the food pantry is ever constant. On December 7, 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, December 28 will be blessed before going to the pantry that week. 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".

With Love, Peace and Joy, Bill Nelson, Joshua Spooner and Tamsin Lucey



Financial Report:

A few comments on the 2014 budget:

- Pledges are lagging behind \$2,207.36 more than anticipated, but sometimes catch up at year end.
- Overall income is at budget because the fundraising income, rental income, and plate income are over budget, and make up for other lines that are under budget.
- Overall expenses are real, but don't tell the whole story because we have enough oil for the 2014-2015 heating season, and enough reserve funds to pay the 2015 building insurance next month.
- The lines that are under budget will either be underspent, or will be put in reserve for 2015, and we have enough reserve funds to cover all budget lines if needed.
- The vestry voted to continue on with our phase three building repair plan. Next project is replacing the window in the ladies room downstairs (It has rotted out) and repair and paint the interior wall around it.
- The portico project is completed with all pledges fulfilled and a total of \$11, 735,50 donated....this is MORE than pledged.
- The sound system fundraiser met the asking amount with \$1,530, or \$30 over asking to date. We have a few more items to be replaced on the sound system.
- All bills are paid through 10.31.14

A few comments on the 2015 budget:

- Building insurance will go up 3%.
- Health insurance is stable.
- Clergy mid-line salary is up a little.
- Our assessment, now that we are no longer drawing endowment income which inflates the assessment, decreased by \$2,274.
- We budgeted for an increase in electricity, but not 37%. The increase will gradually go up Nov, Dec, peaking in January and then decline, so it is not a straight 37% increase.

*Blessings,
Susan Howland, Treasurer*

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

If you contribute to the Annual Meeting Report – please know that this is the time to write your piece! It takes some time to compile, format, print and collate this report. We would like to have it available for parishioners to review on Jan 11 therefore.....

All reports are due to Chris Bolte the Parish Secretary BEFORE Dec. 30th.

Thank you. Questions, please talk with Tamsin Lucey.

CALLED TO SERVE ON THE VESTRY?

Vestry members serve to do God's Work of making “church happen”, whatever that involves! Our vestry is comprised of Clergy - Fr Richard Signore, Sr. & Jr. Warden, Treasurer, Clerk and 6 vestry members. I am delighted to let you know that **all** the current officers (each serve for 1 yr. at a time) have offered to serve another year. The members whose terms are not up this year have all agreed to continue in their commitment. Currently there will be two open seats, both for 3 year terms or any part there of. Holy Trinity is truly blessed to have 3 people prayerfully considering those seats. If you are at all curious to know more, please talk with: Fr. Richard; the Senior Warden, Tamsin; or Junior Warden - Nancy. We look forward to starting conversations with you. If you are at all interested to know what happens at vestry meetings, please come to the next vestry meeting on Monday December 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

The vestry year starts at the annual meeting – Jan 18; please join the vestry in prayer for a full complement of vestry members in place by the annual meeting.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015 (snow date Sunday January 25, 2015)

8:45 AM-9:15 AM—Presentation of the 2015 budget, in the parish hall.

9:30 AM—Eucharist Service incorporating the Annual Meeting—in Sanctuary

11:00 AM—Hospitality & conversation in the Parish Hall.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 - Heather Bousquet
4 - Marion Piltzecker
11—Mick Kalber
11—Violet Spooner
11 - Mary Burns
17 - Bill Pieczynski
25—Jesus Christ
25—Carol Hanson
25—Ed Bair
30—Ada Mae Crosbie

THE MISSION PLATE

For those families in our community who cannot afford gifts for their children, the parish of St. John Paul II in Southbridge established THE GIVING TREE. We have an opportunity from mid-November to mid-December to collect mission plate offerings and donate them to THE GIVING TREE. What a wonderful way to surprise a child on Christmas morning with a gift. A gift to honor the birth of Jesus! And maybe we can surprise many children, and many families through our offerings.

Wishing one and All a Merry Christmas. May the joy and wonder of the birth of Jesus remain in our hearts this season and throughout the year.

Suzy Sharp ([774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426))
276 A Paseo Sarta, Green Valley, AZ 85614

2014 Convention Notes

It was truly a privilege to attend the 2014 Convention this year as the non vestry delegate from Holy Trinity Church! There was such a positive feeling amongst the attendees. What a blessing to watch the Holy Spirit at work!

There was so much information shared about the different ministries going on around the Diocese it is tempting to write about all of them. I was struck by two ministries in particular and so I will focus on those topics and how we might tap into those more locally at HTC.

“Change The Babies”

This is a ministry spear-headed by the Rev. Betsy Fisher (Bishop Fisher’s wife) to collect money for the Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana. The home cares for 35 – 40 infants up to age 4 or 5 whose mothers died in childbirth. The money raised will primarily go to buy food. The government and local municipality have provided money for electricity and the babies’ food and medical care in the past, but this funding has now been cut so there is a huge need for increased support. Rev. Betsy Fisher has successfully used empty fountain jugs to collect spare change in the past and is asking parish churches to adopt something similar – to collect change to “Change the Babies”. Keep listening in the coming weeks for how our Family Worship children will be getting involved with this exciting ministry!



In 2013 Betsy Fisher encouraged the diocese to help raise \$30,000 to allow the Mampong Babies Home to finish a kitchen that will teach young women culinary art skills they can use to support themselves and their families. The kitchen now has a walls and a roof. They hope to have the Culinary Arts Training Facility up and running in 2015.

Ecumenical Youth Group

This topic is actually a combination of being inspired by hearing the Interim Formation Missioner, the Rev. Hilary Bogert-Winkler, talk about her work with the Youth of the Diocese, listening to the Rev. Laura Everett from the Mass. Council of Churches talk about how much binds us together across denominations, and hearing my own kids talk about “how much more fun church would be if more of their friends were there”.

While the current focus of the Interim Formation Missioner is with youth that are in grades 9-12. I feel there is an opportunity for us to engage with other churches and provide a socially comfortable setting for our youth in grades 4 – 8 to be able to interact with other kids in our local faith community. Many of these children already know each other through school, sports, extra-curricular activities, etc. but because they don’t go to the same specific church, may feel isolated from these friends when it comes to spiritual matters.

Can we begin collectively thinking as a parish for ways in which these children can share common ground across denominations to interact and do fun things together (bowling, sledding, skiing, mini golf, etc)? It could open some doors for further dialogue about God and Jesus and what that means to each individual amongst their peers. Potentially, this could lead to an ecumenical youth group meeting regularly and some joint local mission ventures with the children of the community working together.

I look forward to hearing the suggestions that you might have, talking with Fr Richard and the Vestry.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my take-aways from the convention and my thoughts on going forward within our parish.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lana Pieczynski,

Non-Vestry Delegate, 2014 Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Stations of the Cross

Sitting in the nave of Holy Trinity you may have noticed three new additions to the left side wall: they are the first three images of the Stations of the Cross. Fr. Richard gave Holy Trinity Church



these three pieces of liturgical art as a gift to the parish at the time of the Celebration of New Ministry when he became our Priest-in-Charge.

The Stations of the Cross are a series of scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. They are commonly placed on the walls of the nave for people to symbolically make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem while meditating on Christ's Passion.

These Stations of the Cross are sculpted in bas-relief from an original design by Marc Fuller. Marc Fuller is an artist, sculptor, musician, and friend of Fr. Richard's, who lives on Cape Cod.

While his artwork speaks for itself, it is interesting to note that Marc is the grandson of Meta Warrick Fuller (1877-1968), a black female artist who specialized in sculpture. In 1914 she created her signature piece, *Ethiopia Awakening*, and in 1930 her version of the Pieta. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meta_Vaux_Warrick_Fuller. In 1950 she went into retirement to care for her husband. After her husband's death she returned to



sculpture in the 1960's inspired by the civil rights movement, creating tributes like the sculpture *Emancipation* which can be seen in the Harriet Tubman Park on Columbus Avenue in Boston, MA. <http://publicartboston.com/content/emancipation>



Marc's grandfather was Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller a notable Psychiatrist. Dr. Fuller spent the majority of his career practicing at Westborough (MA) State Mental Hospital where he did ground-breaking research on the physical changes to the brains of Alzheimer's patients. The Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center, a psychiatric hospital in Boston, MA, was named in his memory.

If you have not seen the three Stations take a minute to look at them up close; they are impressive and moving. There are eleven more images of the Stations of the Cross. They cost \$400 each, eight are completed with another six in progress. The vestry invites anyone who would like to help purchase additional Stations to make a donation to the Holy Trinity Memorial Fund, which can be used to purchase more Stations over time. If you would like to contribute, make your check to Holy Trinity Church with "Memorial Fund: Stations" in the memo.

Family Worship December Happenings

I hear Christmas music in the stores.... It is getting to be that time of year and at Holy Trinity, Family Worship is gearing up for some great ways to celebrate, learn and worship.

First, we are so THANKFUL for our FW leaders. You all are doing a great job with our kids! As we move into the season of ADVENT, families will receive age appropriate materials to use at home. Make it a sweet part of the day or save for the weekend- no need to make it another thing on your to do list! Materials will be available starting November 23.

On November 30 (First Sunday of ADVENT) OR December 1, you will have the opportunity to make an Advent wreath for your home. Sign up in big church. This will take place after coffee hour (11/30) and from 5-7 pm (12/1).

Kids can help with the annual ECW Cookie sale by baking cookies at home and bringing them in and/or helping with set-up and selling. Perhaps your kids can save their money and buy a box of cookies for a teacher, a neighbor or a friend.

Calling all FROZEN Fans!!!! We are putting on a program called UNFROZEN on December 21 at 4pm. This will be "a joyful evening of worship, playful presentation and fresh examination into the story of Jesus's birth. This is one service NOT TO BE MISSED! And yes, you can wear a princess dress! But it's not just for Frozen fans- the play will let us all think a bit more about the promise God made to us and how HE restores the frozen hearts of all people.

Christmas Eve- Please let Cat Reith-Lowery know if your child/children are interested in participating in the Christmas Eve service. She is planning a puppet show for the 4pm service.

NOTE: Dec 28 NO FAMILY WORSHIP, Lessons and Carols with Eucharist in Big church

Walking the Way

The Stewardship Series, "Walking the Way", concluded with a brunch on November 9, 2014 following the 9:30AM service. We heard six inspirational stories of stewardship and faith over the last six weeks. I hope you were moved by the stories of what the Holy Trinity community means to our parish family members.

Susan Howland presented the 2015 budget proposed by the Finance committee. The committee is proactive in preparing a budget before the ingathering of parishioner's commitments. We are blessed by your faithfulness and by the faithfulness of our community. To date, we have 80% of the dollars needed to balance the budget. If you have not made your commitment for 2015, there are pledge cards located on the table in the narthex.

Nancy Waugh, Stewardship Chair

The **Winter Coat Closet** will be open on Saturdays from 9am-11am in the Undercroft through December 13. Volunteers are needed to help run the Coat Closet on Saturdays. If you are interested, please contact Chris McTigue via email at cmct@verizon.net.



Donations of gently used and cleaned coats are always accepted and in need.

Holy Trinity Church, Episcopal
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

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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

Holy Trinity Church

Monday, December 1—5pm to 7pm—Advent Wreath Making

Saturday, December 6—9am to 11am—Winter Coat Closet

Monday, December 8—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, December 10—7:00 p.m.—Advent Taize Service—BLC

Saturday, December 13—9am to 11am—Winter Coat Closet

Sunday, December 14—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Sunday, December 14—10:30am—ECW Christmas Cookie Sale

Wednesday, December 17—7:00 p.m.—Advent Taize Service—HTC

Sunday, December 21—10:30 a.m.—Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 21—4:00 p.m.—“UNFROZEN”, A Children’s

Christmas Story

Wednesday, December 24—4 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28—9:30 a.m.—Lessons and Carols with

Holy Eucharist

Class Information

Wednesdays @ 9:00 a.m.—Yoga

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.—Yoga

Fridays @ 7:30 a.m.—TaiChi (no class the last Friday of the month)