



# Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

## December 2015

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The Rev. Richard Signore  
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Tamsin Lucey  
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Nancy Waugh  
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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!

We are waiting with gladness as a new Christian year begins. We start on November 29<sup>th</sup>, the First Sunday of Advent – with our Advent event (after morning Eucharist). We will have materials available to make Advent wreaths to take and use at home; along with recommended prayers and scripture texts. The wreath-making will repeat on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, to make your scheduling more flexible. Prayer opens the heart to receive the Christ-child, and confirm the power of grace in one's life. Seek the Lord while He draws near!!!

Members of Holy Trinity are invited to share in an Evensong held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. I plan to attend right after the "Being Episcopalian" confirmation class from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at HTEC! (We can share this Evensong, again, with an Epiphany theme on January 27<sup>th</sup> – calling all musicians to help).

I have invited Bethlehem Lutheran Church members to share in our January 6<sup>th</sup> "Epiphany" party, as it is the same night as our joint Bible Study.

Advent is a new start – in song, prayer, and renewed love in God. Come let us adore him!!

*I remain, Your friend and Priest,*

*(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore*

## Senior Warden Speaking

The hustle and bustle of Advent is upon us – please take some time out to rest a while and ponder anew this Advent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's birthday. For it is that for which all the hustle and bustle is about - Christ's Birthday. What is it about Christmas that Christians are called to celebrate and how do we do that? What is the message we, you and I are (that is HTEC) called to bring to the hurting world? How do we engage those who might be yearning (without even realizing it) for the peace and love in our hearts? Invite a friend, a neighbor or colleague to ponder anew what Christmas might mean to them by joining you in a pew. Family Worship has the perfect excuse – **"Star Trip" Our Faith Awakens - A Christmas Story** that will tell the traditional nativity story very differently – come see what all the fuss is about on Sunday Dec 20@ 4:00 p.m. Perfect for children – 0 to 101.

Over the past year – we have once again accomplished far more than we could ever have dreamed of or imagined. Building projects that inconvenienced us for some considerable time – but we stuck with it and now enjoy wonderful new steps and a beautiful new suspended ceiling in the undercroft complete with new electrical wiring and fire alarm system! Check out the floor in the classroom wing – Hector, our sexton, has worked hard on them – they look almost new! We also undertook a huge outreach project with our participation in the Summer Food Service program – free lunches to whoever needed them. The YMCA Day Care Program has signed a 10 month lease and will move into the classroom wing on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. God is preparing us for great things – the building is starting to look better than it has for years, we still have some things to do but we are moving forward.... As we will continue to do in 2016 - embracing with open arms all that God has in store for us. Fr. Richard and the vestry continue to empower 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](mailto:abritinusa@gmail.com) or cell phone 774 200 4279. Looking forward with gratitude and blessings.

~Tamsin Lucey

## Reflections on the Diocesan Convention - Nov 2015

Suzy Sharp and myself, Bobbie Helbig, had the privilege of attending the recent diocesan convention in Springfield. Bishop Doug Fisher opened with an uplifting sermon "we didn't start the fire", but our job is to fan the flames! We saw evidence of this call to "Fan the Flames" as those that made presentations throughout the day spoke: whether it was the budget or what a church is doing in their community! Everyone is "Fanning the Flames" and we realized that we are to! The

music was the fun kind that you just had to clap or sway slowly to or wish you had a tambourine! Lunch, was too short, the food was great and we shared and laughed with new friends! It was an all day affair, we both wondered why it could possibly take so long - but before we knew it, it was over and we felt refreshed! We were with family, our church family not strangers, we felt welcomed and valued. Each year at least 2 people attend from each parish - a vestry delegate and a non vestry delegate, visitors are welcomed. After our experience this year - we recommend that everyone should attend a Diocesan Convention at some time or another. You won't regret it!

~Bobbie Helbig and Suzie Sharp.



## SHARE ADVENT TRADITIONS & MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH

All materials supplied.

Come either

**Sunday, November 29 @ 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall**  
OR

**Monday, November 30, drop in between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**  
*Simple supper of soup will be available*

### Advent Evening Prayer at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

December 9

6:00 p.m.—Supper

7:00 p.m.—Worship



Please mark your calendars! Bethlehem Lutheran Church has invited HTEC to gather for an old fashioned “Covered Dish Supper”, followed by a beautiful and peaceful worship, which is perfect for our journey during Advent. This is a wonderful way to take a breath, refocus, and renew ourselves. Please contact BLC, Beth St.Clair at [stc737@charter.net](mailto:stc737@charter.net), to sign up to bring a dish to share.



### HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13, 2015  
following the 9:30 a.m. service

Pick that favorite holiday Christmas cookie recipe for this delicious event!  
Not a baker? You can be the buyer!

Drop off cookies Sunday morning 12/13 before the 9:30 a.m. service or by other arrangement. PLEASE make sure that there is a recipe card attached to the cookies you have baked!

Looking for a few good souls to help me sell that morning!  
Email or call with questions or would like to volunteer that a.m.

Questions? Call or email Bobbie Helbig  
508-347-9374 or [bjvsh@yahoo.com](mailto:bjvsh@yahoo.com).



Join us in the age old tradition of greening the church.

**Sunday December 20, 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!

### **Continuing a New Tradition ..... Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion**

Sunday, December 27, join us at 9:30 a.m. for the third 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' 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!



### **THE MISSION PLATE**

Greetings from Arizona! Dave and I arrived safely, and our cat, Gracie, is adjusting just fine. I miss you all and hope mild weather will stay through the winter. Now, about the mission plate...

In November we were collecting donations for a family or individual to help give them a Christmas to remember! Susan Grant knows a person who is aware of children and families that need some assistance. She will be coordinating with this person, and in mid December give her our donations to buy presents, food or whatever is needed. Susan will be making announcements during the Sunday services, so please open your hearts and wallets so that we can share the Christmas spirit with a family. Spreading Joy!

The last two weeks in December will go towards the January mission plate, and I am planning that soon.

In the meantime, enjoy this holiday season, and pray for peace around the world.

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

276 Paseo Sarta, Apt A, Green Valley, AZ 85614

[sharpgiberson@earthlink.net](mailto:sharpgiberson@earthlink.net)



## 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

*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!*

## Collecting Change for Change the Babies

### Helping the Mampong Children and Babies home in Kumasi Ghana

The water bottle, located on Sunday mornings on the Narthex Table, has some change in it! Please continue to bring in your loose change or empty your pockets at church! The money collected goes directly to help support the mission - pays for electric, food and medicines - of the Mampong Children's and Babies Home in Kumasi Ghana.

**To date we have collected \$503!**



## 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 17 therefore.....

**All reports are due to Chris Bolte, the Parish Secretary, BEFORE January 6.**

Thank you.

Questions, please talk with Tamsin Lucey.



The **Winter Coat Closet** will be open on Saturdays from 9am to 11am in the Undercroft through December 19. 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](mailto:cmct@verizon.net). Donations of gently used and cleaned coats are always accepted and in need.

## Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Thank you for caring for those in need, for continuing to support the food pantry at St. John Paul II. As we move into the winter months the need for food at the food pantry is ever constant. On Dec 6 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 Dec 27 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,  
 Tamsin Lucey*





## 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 20**. 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 20**. 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, 2016

**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!**

### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016 (snow date Sunday, January 31, 2016)**

**8:45 AM-9:15 AM—Presentation of the 2016 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.**

## **October Financial Report**

As we approach the end of the year we are in a stable financial position.

Overall income is \$3,700 over budget, with most of that money designated to a building fund.

Overall expenses are \$5,600 over budget, but much of that expense was voted in 2014 and spent out of reserve funds.

### **On the Income Side**

Unpaid-pledges are \$1,500 over budget; this is a net figure of underpaid and overpaid pledges correcting for prepaid pledges. All other budget lines are within budget.

### **On the Expense Side**

Aside from fixed expenses most of the budget lines are underspent, except the category called "Church".

A brief explanation on the "Church" line:

- Oil is way over budget, but we have enough oil for our needs for over a year.
- The insurance is paid once a year and that is put aside monthly in a reserve fund.
- The repair and maintenance and capital improvement lines are way over budget as expected and we are taking reserve funds for these major and long overdue expenses;
- The utilities are a little under budget; this may be because the building was not used as heavily in 2015.

\*A note on the gas: we are keeping the gas pilot lights off, we have a new, probably more efficient hot water heater and natural gas rates have slowly declined from a high of 77 cents a therm to a low this month of 19.5 cents a therm; there are seasonal fluctuations.

- The undercroft ceiling repair is finished and will be paid in November.

Thanks to Tamsin's organization along with extraordinarily helpful parishioners the classroom wing is cleaned out in anticipation of the YMCA renting the space.

At the same time the Coat Closet Ministry got a "face lift" when the undercroft storage rooms were emptied, cleaned out, and the coats put back for the opening of the Free Coat Closet on November 7th. Thanks to all who helped make this wonderful ministry possible.

If anyone has questions about any budget line or wants more detail don't hesitate to contact me. Financial reports can be found here: <http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org/holy-trinity-news-2/church-newsletter/>

~Susan Howland, Treasurer, [howlands@charter.net](mailto:howlands@charter.net) 508.248.6112

## **CONFIRMATION AND BECOMING EPISCOPALIAN GROUP**

Young adults, their parents and anyone, irrespective of age, with questions about the Episcopal faith — this group is for you! This is your opportunity to ask questions! The group will meet just once in December: Wednesday, December 9.

***The group starts promptly at 6pm and concludes at 7pm.***

## The Genesis of a Holy Trinity Building Fund

"Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and figure the cost so you'll know if you can complete it? If you only get the foundation laid and then run out of money, you're going to look pretty foolish. Everyone passing by will poke fun at you: 'He started something he couldn't finish.' " **Luke 14:28-30 The Message (MSG)**

In 2019 we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building we call our church home. The parish hall addition will be 50 years old in the same year. With about 15,000 square feet of space, we are challenged in the 21st century as to how to remain a vital Christian outpost in Southbridge while staying faithful to God's mission for us. Part of that challenge will be to maintain our building in good condition so that it will be an asset and not a liability for our mission and for future generations worshipping here.

Three years ago we developed and implemented a proactive plan to address pressing repair concerns. We immediately prioritized by:

- #1 Safety and known repairs causing damage.
- #2 Known deferred repair/maintenance that will eventually lead to a more expensive fix.
- #3 Proactive/esthetic/comfort repairs and ongoing maintenance.

Over the past three years with the help of our generous parishioners and intentional stewardship we have:

- Repaired the flat roof over the foyer.
- Repaired the balcony wall crack.
- Reconstructed the portico over the main door entry way.
- Repaired the "cricket," a small structure connecting the bell tower to the church, and repaired the slipping slates on the tower.
- Replaced the downstairs restroom window, next to the foyer stairs, and painted the water-damaged wall in that restroom.
- Repaired both sets of stone stairs at the front of the building.
- Re-pointed the brick on the street face of the church

Demolished the plaster ceiling in the undercroft, replaced the hung ceiling, upgraded the heat detectors and removed old wiring.

In addition to these major repairs, building code upgrades were done to meet building code and health department requirements.

In anticipation of celebrating our 150th anniversary, the vestry discussed establishing a "Building Fund" to address ongoing building repairs. Although we have not developed a plan, we have already received \$2,385 designated to the "Building Fund." Is this the Holy Spirit at work? We think it might be! Stay tuned for more information as plans unfold for the "Building Fund" and our 150th celebrations.

In gratitude,  
Susan Howland, on behalf of the vestry and the emerging building committee



Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

**December 13**

When families come together to worship with kids in mind.





## Presenting the 2016 Budget Process

During the month of August all ministries with budgets were contacted for their 2016 budget needs; then the Finance Committee met on September 9, 2015. We reviewed the budget vs. actual figures from 2015, reviewed the staffing needs, utility expense, and other budget lines for faithfulness to God's mission here at Holy Trinity Church. The majority of our income comes from pledges (82%), with a smaller percentage from other "plate" offerings (3%), rental income (1.75%), fundraising (1.75%), and investment income (11.5%). Using last year's pledge figure as an estimate, we developed a 2016 Draft Budget that was presented to the vestry on September 14, 2015.

Once the pledge cards have been returned, we will put in the actual pledge figure and make any adjustments necessary to present a balanced budget. This budget will be approved by the vestry in January and presented to the Annual Meeting. We welcome any and all comments up until the budget is approved by the vestry at their meeting on January 11, 2016.

Susan Howland, Finance Committee Chair for the Committee: Nancy Waugh, Lana Pieczynski, and Peg Nelson

### Holy Trinity Church 2016 Draft Budget 11.7.15

#### Operating Budget Income/Expense

##### Income

Total All Other Income	400.00
Total Fundraising- Operating Budget	2,000.00
Total Rental Income	2,095.00
<b>Total Pledge Offering</b>	<b>102,904.00 Estimated</b>
Unfulfilled Pledges	-5,300.00
Total Plate Offering	3,250.00
Total Trust Income	13,710.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>119,059.00</b>

##### Expense

Total Evangelism	750.00
Total Liturgical	915.00
Total Program	3,750.00
Total Christian Formation-Youth	1,500.00
Total Christian Formation-Adult	1,525.00
Workers Comp	350.00
Total Sexton Salary	6,924.00
Total Secretary/Bookkeeper Salary	8,211.00
Church	
Building/Liability Insurance	5,400.00
Church, Capital Improvement	5,600.00
Church Repair/Maintenance	3,500.00
Organ and Piano Maintenance	800.00
Trash/Recycle	500.00
Water/Sewer	1,071.00
Telephone/internet	1,200.00
Electric	2,800.00
Gas	1,040.00
Oil	11,000.00
Total Music Program	12,015.00
Total Clergy	40,055.00
Diocesan Assessment	10,153.00

**Total Expense** **119,059.00**

**Income/Expense difference** **0.00**

### Family Worship News

Remember the recent Sunday the heat didn't go on in "big church" so we moved into the Parish Hall? Well that was a FW Sunday and we all headed downstairs to empty out the nursery and finish moving the coat closet. We didn't have an official lesson plan that day- our lesson was to help and do our part to take care of our building. The little ones played and took up the puzzle tiles, the school aged kids brought coats and hats back to the undercroft, the big kids brought bins up to the balcony and the parents directed and kept everyone on task. In less than 40 minutes, the nursery was empty and our work was complete. The kids felt really good about doing their part!

When we arrived back to worship (a bit dusty and disorganized) it was a beautiful time to reconnect with our parish family and collect ourselves for the week ahead. In fact, I had some real God moments that morning- seeing Colleen and Anna recite the Lord's Prayer together, Jack sitting with his mom and adoring his new baby sister, Phoebe and Jones enjoying their out of state grandparents, Abby and Brayden looking so grown up, new friends Zachary, Tabitha and Nicholas feeling comfortable, Emmy and Aliana following along in their books! I looked around and felt so warm, I wouldn't have needed the heat!



Parents, I know it is really HARD when Sunday morning come around. What I also know is that it's truly a blessing to have us all together, whether we are cleaning, worshiping or bowling! (Will, Joe and Sam, I call a rematch!) Thanks Be to God for all of you and your families!

For the months of November and December, Cat Reith-Lowery will be teaching Family Worship. She will be preparing families for Advent and the Christmas Eve service. If you are on the FW leader rotation, please come and assist, but know that you do not have a lesson to prepare.

*~Eileen DeMings*

### Family Worship Players Presents

# **STAR TRIP**

## **OUR FAITH AWAKENS: A CHRISTMAS STORY**

### **DECEMBER 20 AT 4PM**

This worship service is truly made to delight Star Wars fans of all ages! Characters such as "Only One Kenobi", "Yoma" and "Luke Skywalker" follow a star to see God's promise of hope fulfilled. Along the way they meet King Herod (he might be in a Darth Vader costume) for some foreshadowing....

Starring Josh Spooner, Nate Lowery, Cat Reith Lowery, narrated by Joe DiSalvatore and debuting Ryan Bousquet, Rose Reith and Eileen DeMings as Mary. Directed by Lana Pieczynski. Music led by Anne Bouvier-Monroe and special guest Josh Bolte.

If you are interested in making goodies (think Star Wars!) for our guests after the show, please contact Eileen DeMings.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
446 Hamilton Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550

## Holy Trinity Church

446 Hamilton Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550

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

**E-mail:** holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com

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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**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesday, December 1—7:00 p.m.—Festival of Giving Trees Choir Practice @  
Notre Dame Church

Saturday, December 5—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet

Sunday, December 6—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Sunday, December 6—11:45 am.—Bible Study

Wednesday, December 9—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation Class/Being  
Episcopalian

Saturday, December 12—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet

Sunday, December 13—11:00 a.m.—ECW Christmas Cookie Sale

Monday, December 14—7:00 p.m.—Vestry meeting

Wednesday, December 16—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King

Saturday, December 19—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet

Sunday, December 20—11:00 a.m.—Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 20—4:00 p.m.—Star Trip: A Children's Christmas Story

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

Sunday, December 27 —9:30 a.m.—Lessons & Carols Service