



# Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

## December 2016

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### Organist:

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### Sexton:

Hector Chapa

### Senior Warden:

Nancy Waugh  
Home: (413) 245-3307

### Junior Warden:

John Grant  
Home: (860) 923-9691

*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 beginning of the Church year on the first Sunday in Advent (Nov, 27) bids us to return to the quieter places in our lives, where we can "be still, and ...know God." Public prayer (liturgy) is brought even deeper into the 'living water' by prayer offered to God as the running conversation in our lives; holding before God our cares and our occupations; offering, sifting, doing, in God's strength. Scripture informs this conversation; while the reasonable knowledge of God shared in community and the Holy writings define the path. And the fearful knowledge of God becomes new astonishment and wonder.

To re-enter the mysteries of being grounded in God's life, we practice prayer, scripture, and quiet:

### **Event Advent:**

- Wreath making for use at home with prayer and scripture on Nov 27 (after Church) & Nov 28 (5:30 PM). Children can participate fully.

### **Evening Prayer:**

- In the Lady chapel, Wednesdays at 6:00 PM on Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, & 21
- "Lutheran style" shared with Bethlehem Lutheran, held at Holy Trinity, 7:00 PM on 12/19

### **Prayer Exploration:**

- Sunday, Dec. 4th, breaking out from coffee hour - a free discussion on the use of prayer in daily spiritual living. To share where we find our deepest strengths.

A disciplined Advent will create a deeply refreshed place within you. We prepare a place for the lover of our souls.

*I remain,*

*Faithfully yours in Christ, (The Reverend) Richard S. Signore*

### THANKSGIVINGS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

Thank you to Cat Reith-Lowery, Joe DiSalvatore, and Tamsin for their dedication to the Pie Fundraiser. Thank you, also, to everyone who donated ingredients and purchased the pies. Last year Cat introduced a French Meat Pie which is the most popular pie ordered this year.

I am so proud to be part of a community that patiently listens to parishioners who share during the God Moments and the Stewardship Minutes. To those that share and allow themselves to be vulnerable, and to those who listen without judgment, thank you. We are so fortunate to be part of such a trusting community. Truly, this is what needs to be modeled in a world filled with conflict and anxiety.

Thank you to Susan Howland and the Finance Committee's attention to detail preparing the 2017 budget. Being proactive in preparing a budget before the stewardship campaign helps us all focus on giving out of thankfulness for all God has given us.

Thank you to Tamsin and Fr. Richard for organizing the Advent Wreath-Making. The wreath-making is a special way to start the season of anticipation of Christ's birth.

Gratitude for all these blessings and thanksgivings for the time, talents, and treasures that Holy Trinity receives abundantly.

*Nancy Waugh*



### HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN'S TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11, 2016 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 12/11 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.  
Tamsin Lucey 774-200-4279 or [abritinusa@gmail.com](mailto:abritinusa@gmail.com).

### Fall/Holiday Pies

Thanks go to Cat and Joe for heading up the Fall Pie baking this year - they did a fantastic job. All the pies were made and distributed successfully. Thank you to all who made contributions to the ingredients - your donations made this fundraiser more profitable - the parable of the 5 talents! Thank you to everyone who purchased pies - it was our pleasure to bake them for you! As many of you know, the number of apple pies has dwindled, but the increase in orders for the meat pies has more than made up for the difference. The pie baking team are delighted that the meat pies are a big hit!

*Cat, Joe and Tamsin*



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2—Heather Bousquet	4—Marion Piltzecker	11—Mick Kalber	11—Violet Spooner
11—Mary Bridget 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!*

## Holy Trinity Church Financial Report October 2016

### Income

- The 3rd Q trust fund distribution, the last of the year, came in October. This allowed the reserve fund to rebound after the payment for the building repairs of \$11,935.
- The pledges are \$4,321 over the budgeted arrearage as expected from the lost pledge.
- Overall, the income is over budget by a little more than the pre-paid pledges.
- None of the YMCA rent is budgeted, but reserves are kept for necessary repair and maintenance when needed.
- Rice-O-Rama figures are final and fundraising is ahead of budget.

### Expense

- There is nothing new to report other than what has been reported in prior months.
- Some lines are still under budget; most lines will even out by the end of the year, and some will remain under-spent.
- A few lines are over budget, but as we had the money available or set aside (Like VBS) the expenses were approved, primarily Christian Formation Adult and Christian Formation Youth.

### Summary

- The building repairs of \$11,935 were paid, so the building fund is somewhat depleted.
- We bought about 800 gallons of oil at \$1.76/gallon and we had another 500 gallons delivered in late October at the same cost; the second bill will be paid in November.
- The reserve fund is healthy and will support any unspent budget items for the rest of the year.

### Other News

- The building committee met and made recommendation to the vestry.
- We received a quote for the fire suppression vent hood which, due to code requirements, will be in the range of \$40,000. The building committee's recommendation is to see if there are other avenues we can pursue and if we really need this for our repurposing plans.
- Thermostats were one of the things discussed at the building committee meeting and two are being replaced due to malfunction.
- A revised 2017 budget was presented to the vestry. A final budget will be presented when the pledge figures are in.
- There is ongoing discussion about the downstairs kitchen, both to bring it up to Health Department code and other improvements.

### Off-budget designated outreach this year:

- \$3,398.50 from the Parrettie Fund income.
- \$1,816 in Rector's Discretionary alms.
- \$135.00 to Food Share plus monthly food donations through Loaves and Fishes to the JPPI food pantry.
- \$881.83 to Mission and Outreach from the mission plate.
- \$706.71 to the United Thank Offering.
- \$360 to Childreach for our sponsor child, Nicholas.

Susan Howland, Treasurer



**Join us for Family Worship  
in Blakely Hall  
December 11**



**When families come together to  
worship with kids in mind.**

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IS COLLECTING CANS  
AND BOTTLES FOR MISSION & OUTREACH.  
DONATIONS GO IN THE LARGE SILVER BOX IN  
THE PARISH HALL.**

## ADVENT MATERIALS

The advent materials will be available for distribution on Sunday, November 27. The Advent devotional materials for adults will be on the small Narthex table - please help yourself. Families should collect their pack from the smaller Narthex table, each pack is the same but is named to make sure every family receives one!

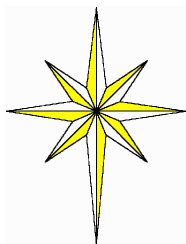
### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



Classes are ongoing for six children who have taken the commitment to learning all about First Communion. The class will receive their Holy Communion together with their families and parish community on **December 11, 2016**. Please keep the following children in your prayers: William, Isabella, Leenah, Phoebe, Amari, and Colleen. The Lord has certainly led these children to us and we are blessed, indeed.



Join us in the age old tradition of greening the church.  
Sunday December 18, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon  
We will 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!*

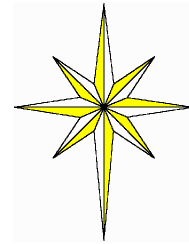


Family Worship Presents:

## **STAR SEARCH , a Christmas Skit**

performed by HTEC children and families.

Come and join us on **December 18 at 4pm** for our yearly performance. This year, the kids take center “stage” in a modern approach to an age-old classic story. Music will be included to put us all in the spirit of love and joy. Refreshments and crafts to follow in the parish hall.



### 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!



### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

There will be a simple said service on Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!



LESSONS  
and  
CAROLS

LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH  
HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 AT 9:30 A.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 18**. 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 18**. 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:**

### Living Generously Stewardship Series

The Stewardship Minutes have continued and we heard from Dave Monroe on October 30, 2016. I think everyone could relate with his story and struggles with being a good steward of all he has been given. He eloquently related his story to the lesson that week of Zacchaeus' story of learning to live generously.

The following week November 6, 2016 we heard from Bobbie Helbig and she told us about what Holy Trinity has meant to her and her family. How her stewardship includes not only her treasure but her time in many different ministries.

Suzy Sharp shared her stewardship minute on November 13, 2016. The reflection question that week was "In your discipleship how can your faith community encourage and support your response to God's call" and Suzy answered that question for us. She gave credit to her Holy Trinity family for teaching her to be a good steward. Suzy told us about being a good steward of our community and the wider world mission. Suzy is the chairperson of our mission and outreach. She looks for opportunities for all of us to give to mission and if you have a mission you would like HTEC to support, please let her know. Thank you.

I look forward to hearing from Sally Baum on November 20<sup>th</sup> for another inspiring stewardship minute. I was so fortunate that Sally volunteered to speak without being asked. If you have missed any of the inserts and would like to read them, they are posted on the Holy Trinity website under the stewardship tab.

*Nancy Waugh*

*Stewardship chair*



### BIBLE AND WINE: A BIBLE BOOK STUDY

*Jesus turned Water to Wine. We expect He will show up here.*

Study Book: The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Bible

By James Stuart Bell Jr. and Stan Campbell

*Bible & Study Book required*

**Wednesday, December 7, 7:30-9PM, Let God Be God!.**

Please see Fr. Richard for location!

### WINTER COAT CLOSET

Winter coats for men, women, youth and children will be available on Saturday mornings from 9-11am through December 17. Clean, gently used coats are always in need!

### THE MISSION PLATE

Shepherds and sheep figure prominently in the Christmas Story. So as we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let us put our pennies, dimes, nickels and dollars in the mission plate to purchase a sheep or two! What a wonderful gift to give a family in need of wool for warmth and milk for nutrition. Plus, they can then pass on lambs to other families.

We might give a gift of a wool sweater, scarf, or hat to a friend. But this will be an actual sheep, perhaps going to a family in Mexico or Zimbabwe. Can you imagine their happiness and gratitude!

Thank you for all your support of the mission plate this year. May you all experience the love, peace, and blessedness of Christmas. And maybe even get to see and touch a real live sheep!

*Suzy Sharp (soon to be in Arizona!) [774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426) cell phone*



Bell Ringers needed. Please contact Tamsin Lucey [774 200 4279](tel:774-200-4279) if you would like to volunteer to ring a bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign - plenty of 2 hour time slots available.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**EPIPHANY POTLUCK  
AGAPE MEAL**

**JANUARY 6, 2017**



### 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 January 15

therefore.....**All reports are due to Chris Bolte, the Parish Secretary, BEFORE January 8.** Thank you.

Questions, please see Nancy Waugh.



### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 (snow date Sunday, January 29, 2017)**

**8:45 AM-9:15 AM—Presentation of the 2017 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.**

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

**Web site:** holytrinitysouthbridge.org

### 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**

**Saturdays in December**—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet (through 12/17)

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

**Saturday, December 3**—10:30 a.m.—First Communion Class

**Wednesday, December 7**—7:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine Study—HTC

**Saturday, December 10**—10:30 a.m.—First Communion Class

**Sunday, December 11**—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

**Sunday, December 11**—10:30 a.m.—ECW Cookie Sale

**Wednesday, December 14**—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting & Book Study

**Sunday, December 18**—11:00 a.m.—Greening of the Church

**Sunday, December 18**—4:00 p.m.—"Star Search" Christmas Skit

**Wednesday, December 21**—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King Meeting

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

**Sunday, December 25**—9:30 a.m.—Simple Said Service w/ Holy Eucharist