



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

February 2013

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Guest Preacher & Celebrant:

Rev. Judith Freeman Clark
judithclark49@gmail.com

Deacon: (Retired)

The Reverend Mary K. Hicks
Home: (508) 434-2701

Secretary:

Chris Bolte
Office: (508) 765-9559
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
E-mail:
holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com
Web site: holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Organist/Choirmaster: In Transition

Sexton:

Kenneth Bisson

Senior Warden:

Tamsin Lucey
Home: (508) 347-1414

Junior Warden:

Nancy Waugh
Home: (413) 245-3307

A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. JUDITH FREEMAN CLARK

The word "confession" has several meanings. In law enforcement circles, it can be an admission of culpability. In the Christian Church, confession has long been understood to mean "a statement of belief." In the Roman Catholic tradition, a person "goes to confession" to share, privately with a priest, details of one's personal short-comings.

While The Book of Common Prayer provides for a private confessional rite known as *Reconciliation of a Penitent*, the great majority of Episcopalians do not confess their misdeeds to a priest. Although some Anglo-Catholic parishes in the Episcopal Church have scheduled times for private confession, most Episcopalians simply "go to confession" together during Sunday morning worship.

At Holy Trinity Church, the prayer on page 360 of the Prayer Book is our general prayer of confession. Rather than name concerns aloud, or ask a priest to intercede for us, we speak of our sins, in silence, to God. Absolution pronounced by the priest after the prayer affirms our belief that God works directly in and through us personally, not through an intermediary.

While we may think of sin as something "bad," we may also find it difficult to define sin. One view of sin defines it as "separation from God." In this view, sin is not "bad thoughts or behavior," it is a state of being. And although we may feel the need to draw closer to God *because* of our "bad thoughts or behavior," the ideas or actions themselves have no special moral value. The state of our hearts and minds is what reveals whether or not we are close to (or separated from) God.

A Message from the Rev. Judith Freeman Clark continued on page 2

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

The goal of confession is to strengthen our connection to God, to draw us closer to our Creator. This year, starting with the first Sunday of Lent, February 17, and continuing on each Lenten Sunday thereafter, our worship service will open with the Penitential Order. This places the prayer of confession at the beginning of worship and reminds us that when we're invited into the joy of God's Good News in Christ, we must first ensure that we are connected to God. The Penitential Order is a rite of the Episcopal Church that invites us to strive always to be open, fair, transparent, and Spirit-led in our relationships — with God and with each other.

I look forward to walking together with you on our Lenten journey in 2013...

Judith +

DEACON'S CORNER

Dear Parish Family,

While praying about a topic for the February Tidings, the "Cowley Magazine" arrived. The issue was totally devoted to the Psalms. For those who might not know, Society of Saint John the Evangelist is another name they use and they have a monastery in Cambridge, MA where they hold retreats and where you can go for a few days of quiet retreat. (Pastor Mary went there frequently.) One article was titled, "Prayer Shock Therapy: Praying the Psalms". The brother wrote: "Anyone who prays struggles with self censorship. The dualistic thinking pattern that our minds develop allows us to compartmentalize our existence into neat areas, lest the good be contaminated by less acceptable thoughts and desires. One of the best pieces of spiritual advice I ever received from a spiritual director was to pray for anything I desired, even if the desire seemed sinful. A kind of "Prayer Shock Therapy" designed to break through dualistic thinking patterns and begin integrating prayer with life as we actually experience it rather than as we might wish it to be." In other words, to be honest. Later he writes: "The psalms can encourage us to name those strong, less savory human emotions that should not be suppressed if our prayer is to become a conduit for God's healing restorative touch. Prayer like this reminds us that God loves us not because we are good, but because God is good.":

Personally, I like to read the Psalms. When I do the daily lectionary (if there is time or if I make time), I read the comments in Forward Day by Day, then I go to the Psalms, then maybe the Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel—not always all of them! Some of the Psalms are shocking, some are definitely "not nice" but they are real, which my prayers need to be.

The brothers suggest reading a psalm in several different translations. The Prayer Book is one version where they were written to be sung, metrically. Whatever Bible you own could have another version. Or check out the pew Bible. My favorite version is The Message by Peterson. Among the brothers' favorite psalms are 19, 24, 42, 46, 62, 67, 71, 84, 85, 98, 100, 148, 150. One of my favorites is Ps. 18. How about you?

Love and blessings,

Mary Hicks

An Invitation to a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

- WHO:** All reading this, their families and friends
WHAT: Pancakes and sausage with juice, coffee, and tea
WHEN: Tuesday, February 12th; food served from 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m.
WHERE: In the undercroft (downstairs) of the church.
WHY: Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Lent is a penitential season, traditionally of fasting, during which time certain foods could not be eaten. So not to waste these foods they were consumed the day before. In keeping with this tradition, we at Holy Trinity celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a parish family meal of pancakes and sausage.

Help is appreciated, at 4:00 p.m. for set-up or stay after for clean-up.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Well, what can I say but **THANK YOU** – thank you to vestry members Karen Zacher and Laura Gervais who completed their term of office last year. A huge thank you, on behalf of the whole parish, to Jerry Helbig for 15 yrs. of dedicated service as treasurer – you can come out of the office now, Jerry! Lastly, thank you to Lana for serving as Senior Warden. You have been/are a blessing to HTC! Your exemplary servant-leader model, full of Faith, Kindness, Love, Joy, Trust and Hope, will be hard to follow. Thank you all for your faithful and loyal service to HTC. I would also like to thank Jean Frost, Susan Howland, Mick Kalber, Ellen Lincourt, Linda Lyons, Peg Nelson, and Nancy Waugh for volunteering to serve as vestry members this year. Holy Trinity is poised for an exciting year, moving as always towards God's promised and preferred future for us. As the Parish Profile Committee wraps up its work, we will move onto the search process for our new priest. I am humbled to be serving as your Senior Warden this year. Whilst I have to admit to much trepidation about being Senior Warden, especially this year, I know that God has faith in us and will be with us every step of the way. I take heart in knowing my fellow vestry members have Holy Trinity's best interest at heart and that each bring their own special gifts and talents, the whole of which will be greater than the sum of its parts. Please keep the vestry, and myself, in your prayers throughout the year as we work with the congregation to fulfill God's plans for Holy Trinity Church in 2013.

You need to be the change you wish to see in the world.

With gratitude and blessings, Tamsin Lucey
508-347-1414 - abritabroad@charter.net

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

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

See the bulletin and/or website for more information.

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

Every month, we come **together** each with a "loaf or fish", and collectively we **provide** meals for families in need. At the end of January we donated 5 complete meals in a bag. Thank you for your continued support. This ministry only exists because of the support from parishioners. Each bag contains either canned ham, chicken or tuna, 2 cans of vegetables, a package of either rice, potato or pasta, a box of Bisquick, canned fruit & Jell-O or pudding, juice and milk, a menu, and a recipe. The labels for the winter menus will be on the board at the back of the church on Sunday, February 10th and Sunday, Feb. 17th. Please take a label or two from the board and bring the food to church for the 4th Sunday, February 24th, when Rev. Judith will bless the food. Thank you.

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

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASSES AT HTC

Zumba fitness classes will continue on Wednesdays beginning with Wednesday, February 6th, and every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. Snow cancellations will follow the Southbridge High School after-school activities: if they are cancelled, so is Zumba. Scheduled cancellations will be announced in the Sunday Service Bulletins and on the Holy Trinity Website. Zumba is an energetic, done at your own pace, Latin dance exercise program. Come join the fun – ages 16 and over!

Questions? See Bridgette Bachand or Tamsin Lucey



GATHERING ON HAMILTON STREET

February 5th and February 19th, at 5:00 p.m., a hearty, hot homemade soup will be ready to eat. As part of your Lenten journey won't you please join us between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. for soup, and the opportunity for reflection and conversation. Anyone interested in helping to make soup is welcome to come anytime after 4:00 p.m.
~Tamsin Lucey



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2–Tamsin Lucey
5–Nancy Waugh
7–Geraldine Lees
18–Judith Reich
20 – JoAnne Markey
23–Emily Waugh

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

A REPORT FROM THE PARISH PROFILE COMMITTEE

Eleven members of the parish, who were asked, agreed to sit on this committee to put together a profile of Holy Trinity Church in preparation for calling a new Rector. Members of the group met with Archdeacon Bill Coyne on Nov 15th to get started with the process. A survey questionnaire was designed and sent out, thank you to those who responded. Section headings were chosen to highlight different aspects of life within Holy Trinity. The section headings are as follows: (not in the final order)

- Worship
- Music
- Christian Formation
- Ministries
- Mission and Outreach
- Stewardship
- Brief History
- Footprint – the communities in which our members live and our buildings, church/parish hall and Rectory
- Administration- paid staff and lay leadership

We've spent time reviewing the responses to the questions, looking for common themes, picking out noteworthy comments and filling in the sections with information from the surveys and other sources. The survey responses have provided us with some very helpful information. We have met as a group four times and have another meeting scheduled for next week. We are working together very well, (I think), and are on schedule to complete the Profile by mid-February. Each person on the committee brings gifts that are useful and valuable in completing this work. We have over 700 pictures to choose from to add to this digital document.

This document is intended to give prospective clergy a truthful image of who and what Holy Trinity is at this point in time and some idea of where we see ourselves in the future.

The committee consists of Eileen DeMings – chair, Barbara Wilson, Peg Nelson, Josh Spooner, Bridgette Bachand, Francine Bloch, Ellen Lincourt, Heather Bousquet, Tamsin Lucey, Susan Howland, Jean Frost

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.

12/31/12
Cash Basis

Holy Trinity Church, Southbridge, MA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of December 31, 2012

	<u>Dec 31, 2012</u>
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
HTC Main Checking Account	
Designated Funds	
VBS Reserve	691.30
Rectory Rent Fund	900.00
Fitzpatrick Scholarship	236.01
Mission & Outreach Overseas	721.05
Memorials	10,961.29
Total Designated Funds	<u>13,509.65</u>
Total Undesignated Funds	<u>8,081.72</u>
Total HTC Main Checking	<u>21,591.37</u>
HTC Parrettie Checking Account	4,445.97
Rector's Discretionary Fund Account	562.05
Savings Account	50.62
Petty Cash	200.00
Rectory Security Deposit Account	500.01
Total Checking/Savings	<u>27,350.02</u>
Other Assets	
Endowment Funds	<u>September 30, 2012</u>
Parrettie Fund	139,087.13
Storey Fund	10,762.43
Buckley Fund	53,083.27
Wells Fund	144,688.05
Hobbs Fund	2,970.27
Shepherd Fund	3,352.35
Fannie Wall Fund	4,243.80
Fitzpatrick Fund	5,070.78
Emeline & George Watson Fund	1,377.93
Total Other Assets	<u>364,616.01</u>
Total Assets	<u>391,966.03</u>
Liabilities and net assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable (Oil and Rectory repair)	3250.00
Next Years Pledge	100.00
Total Liabilities	<u>3,350.00</u>
Net Assets:	
Unrestricted	8,332.34
Temporarily restricted	19,017.68
Permanently restricted	364,616.01
Total Net Assets	<u>391,966.03</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>388,616.03</u>

All Bank account are at Southbridge Saving Bank

Lent is a Time for Family

Observing Lent

Christians have, for centuries, marked the season of Lent by "giving up" something or by "taking on" intentional practices. Examples of things people often give up for Lent include sweets, meat (for all or some meals), alcohol, movies, TV, or similar entertainment. Giving up something for Lent can be made even more meaningful if the resources of money and time we save through these acts of self-denial is used for some constructive purpose.
(Extract from Lenten Brochure Rev. Judith Freeman Clarke)

To help you and your family mark the season of Lent, a variety of Lenten materials that will be available on the tables in the Narthex and Foyer beginning on Sunday, February 3rd. Please take whichever you feel will help you the most:

- The brochure from which the above passage is taken.
- "Called to Life, Called to Love" Lenten Reflections from the works of Henri J. M. Nouwen
- "Saved Through Christ: A family Prayer Plan for Lent".
- "Where In The World Is God", 40 days of Devotions for Today's World by Stephen J. Carter.
- "Jesus in Jerusalem" - a daily sticker activity for Lent, specifically for children.
- Lent 2013 calendar (adults) daily scripture and reflections all on one page!
- "Gracebook: God's Social Media" 2013 Lent Calendar for Teens & Young Adults.

Other activities you and your family can embrace include but are not limited too;

- Join your parish family on the following Tuesdays: February 5th, 19th, March 5th and 19th for a simple supper of soup, served in the parish hall, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We will be using special "Nourished" placemats - come find out what they say!
- On Ash Wednesday ask each member of the family to pick out a day during Lent that will be their special day. On that day, that person will be expected to be especially kind, helpful and complimentary to other members of the family!
- Donate time to serve an organization in your local community.
- Provide food to your local food bank/pantry or Holy Trinity's Meal in a Bag.
- Attend worship together on Sundays.
- Share a "simple" meal of 1 or 2 basic foods once a week, talk about how people who have less all the time might cope. Calculate the money you have saved by serving a simple meal and donate that amount to Food Share - our offering plate on the second Sunday in each month.

Serving Christ, serving Holy Trinity, Serving the Community
Tamsin Lucey

Holy Trinity Church, Episcopal
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

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 Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

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

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

Tidings of Holy Trinity-February 2013

Save These Dates

Wednesday in February—6:15 p.m.—Zumba Class

Friday in February—7:30 a.m.—Tai Chi

Tuesday in February—7:30 p.m.—Bible Study—HTC

Tuesday, February 5—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

4:00 p.m.—Gathering on Hamilton Street

6:00 p.m.—Family Worship

Monday, February 4—6:45 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Thursday, February 7—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Sunday, February 10—10:15 a.m.—Family Worship

Tuesday, February 12—5:30 p.m.—Shrove Tuesday Pancake

Supper

Wednesday, February 13—12:00 Noon—Holy Eucharist and

Imposition of Ashes

3:45 p.m.—Daughters of the King—HTC

7:00 p.m.—Holy Eucharist and

Imposition of Ashes

Thursday, February 14—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Tuesday, February 19—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

4:00 p.m.—Gathering on Hamilton Street

6:00 p.m.—Family Worship

Sunday, February 24—10:15 a.m.—Family Worship

Tuesday, February 26—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Thursday, February 28—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer