



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

January 2013

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DEACON'S CORNER

When serving at the altar, I would often look out at you and marvel at the faith I saw there. Going through my files recently, I found more evidence of your faith: Advent Meditations written in 2002. "A gift from 22 of the Faithful at Holy Trinity to all the Faithful (with much love)". They were distributed to all. Maybe a few still have yours. Alas, we did not put our names below our meditations but names were listed in the back. Of the 22, 3 moved on to other churches, 2 died, Fr. Ed King and another moved away - one couple, unknown to me. I will quote from some of the meditations:

- "I pray also that we will deepen our relationship with one another, being truly thankful for the Christ-centered community of faith we have at Holy Trinity."
- "I will look for God in the faces of others, and hope that they see Him in mine."
- "The world has heard the message of God but we have trouble 'receiving' it and 'accepting' it and living it in our lives. "
- "Lord, help us to 'receive' your message deep into our hearts and minds that we can transform ourselves into peacemakers, healers, and brothers and sisters of love to those less fortunate. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"
- "Have you noticed that 'praise the Lord' is a command...I have some notes in the back of my Bible that help me on those days when praising the Lord is difficult. Over the years I have kept a list of the miracles, some big and some little, that God has done in my life. It's so easy to forget."

Deacon's Corner continued on page 2....

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

- “I believe the Holy Spirit works through people, some aware, some not...When I am ready or ‘ripe’ is when it happens, not because I choose, but as a gift from God. Many times I don’t recognize it until a later time because I am too busy.”
- “We should not be ‘play-it-safe’ Christians...If Christmas is about God living dangerously and becoming forever part human and doing his human things in an out-of-the-way place with no room service, then Advent is a scary time.”
- “In the quiet place in our hearts, let us know for certain that God loves us, and that he speaks to us in a powerful whisper.”

Lots to meditate on from our fellow pew-sitters. I’ll end with the closing of my Christmas letter: “What have I learned this past year? To let go of a lot of things, to practice patience with how long it takes me to do anything and everything (slowed down by walkers and canes), to adapt to change if possible, to accept really morphing into old age (I am!), to ask for and receive help as graciously as possible, to realize that God can use me where and as I am, to recognize how much love I receive where I live and from my family and church family and friends, and to realize that it is also God loving me through them.”

God loves you, too. Look around for new ways He shows it and be surprised, amazed, grateful, and humbled. I was.

I love you, too!

Blessings, Mary Hicks



PARISH PROFILE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Steps to calling a new priest

Let us introduce our work and ourselves! The Parish Profile Committee has been prayerfully called to conduct a self-study and create an online document that tells our story- who Holy Trinity Church is today and who God is calling us to become. This document will contain text, pictures, quotes and images that will be read by potential candidates during the search for our new priest. The format for the parish profile document is a nationally accepted standard and the diocese has recommended that we model our profile after Trinity Episcopal Church in Lenox, which can be viewed by going to www.trinitylenox.org.

Our work began with asking the congregation to complete a parish profile survey. Thank you to all who took the time to read, pray about and complete the 19 question Parish Profile survey. Your input and the data gathered, from the thirty-eight surveys that have been submitted, will guide the committee through its compilation and composition of the marketing piece that will be made available to prospective priests. The next step is to complete our research and include our worship styles, demographics of our region, history, current ministries, mission and outreach etc.

Our goal is to write and finalize the profile by mid- February so that it can be presented at the spring job fair. This will allow the search committee to start their work! We ask that you continue to pray for the committee so that its work can produce a compelling and truthful picture of who Holy Trinity Church is today and where God is calling us to go.

Blessings,

Eileen DeMings, chair, members Bridgette Bachand, Francine Bloch, Heather Bousquet, Jean Frost, Susan Howland, Ellen Lincourt, Tamsin Lucey, Peg Nelson, Josh Spooner, Barbara Wilson.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dear friends at Holy Trinity Church,

As I write this, I do hope that snow will soon begin falling so we will have a white Christmas. And I hope just as fervently that we can avoid a repeat of recent sleet and freezing rain, as I dislike icy driving conditions!

For me, winter is a time both to enjoy the outdoors AND to stay inside by the fire. Most people who have lived in New England for any length of time know that we're blessed with five uniquely different seasons: spring, summer, fall, winter and, especially in some areas, "mud" season. With the exception of the last, each has its special rewards. And when we contemplate these seasonal glories, we see in them all clear evidence of God's creative power.

The season of Epiphany, which begins this year on Sunday, January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, sometimes coincides with a good, old-fashioned, New England snow storm. I've found a snowy afternoon or evening to be the perfect time for reflecting on how our natural surroundings shape and direct our faith. God is present not just in our church buildings and our homes, but in mountains, forests, fields, and lakes, as well.

Psalms 148 is a good psalm to read on a winter day. It voices our praise to God, the creator of many glories, as it acknowledges the elements of nature: "*fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!*"

The beauty of poetic human language enhances our thankfulness to God for the magnificent variety of the Creator's gifts. When we meditate on the verses of this psalm, we hear echoes in the psalmist's voice — satisfaction and exhilaration, wonder and peace.

*"Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!*

*Praise him, sun and moon:
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!*

So, here is something to do on a snowy day or quiet evening. Pull out your Bible from its place on bookshelf, bed-side table or wherever it may be. Read Psalm 148. Then, think about your surroundings. Reflect on how God is present in the natural world, and how we are all dependent on our Creator for every good thing.

Praise the Lord!

*...Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!*

...Praise the Lord!

See you in church!

Judith +

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

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

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

Thank you for your continued support. At the end of December we donated 7 meals-in-a-bag to St Mary's Food Pantry. 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 the following: either canned ham, chicken or tuna, 2 cans of vegetables, rice, potato or pasta, Bisquick, canned fruit and Jell-O or pudding, juice and 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, January 27th.

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.

GATHERING ON HAMILTON STREET

January 1st and
January 15th at
5:00 p.m. a hearty,
hot homemade
soup will be ready
to eat. Please join
us between 5:00
and 7:00 p.m. for
soup and conversa-
tion. Anyone inter-
ested in helping to
make soup is wel-
come to come any-
time after 4:00 p.m.
~Tamsin Lucey



EPIPHANY POTLUCK BRUNCH

Mark it on your calendars! Join us on January 6th for the Feast of the Epiphany at 9:00 (between the 8:00 and 10:15 services). Look for more details to follow via a parish-wide email!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3—Harry Theodoss
4—Roy Baum, Jr.
5—Harold Baker
6—Gabby Somadelis
12—Dan Leo
Macumber
13—Jayden Marritt
19 - Pam Graham
28 - Jonathan
Khattar
30—Douglas Helbig

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

ANNUAL MEETING EUCHARIST SERVICE

Sunday, January 20, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Join us for a very special service on January 20th that will be a combination of our annual meeting and a Eucharist Service. The meeting will include voting on new vestry positions and officers, receiving of the 2013 budget, and prayerful worship together. **There will only be one service on this day at 9:00... No 8:00 am service and no 10:15 am service.** A coffee hour with light refreshments reception will follow.

A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

While this is not an end-of-the-year report, the information is current through December 18th.

On the income side, we budgeted \$161,338 to date and we received \$150,929, or \$10,409 under budget. \$4,037 of the income shortfall is from the pledge category (Pledged \$129,704; received \$125,667) and the remainder of the shortfall is from a number of income categories.

On the expense side, we budgeted \$162,900 to date (This was a \$1,652 deficit budget) and we spent \$146,387 or \$16,513 under budget. This difference is partly due to lower expenditures in a few areas, but primarily because we saw a dramatic reduction in clergy and organist expense for November and December.

What will we do with excess funds this year and while we are in search? As funds are available:

We will put aside funds for the search committee expense. The last search cost \$2,250.

We will put aside moving expense for the new priest: the last two moves cost \$7,000 to \$8,000.

We will put aside funds for a much needed capital expense fund to make repairs to the rectory and church.

We will start funding a year round fuel fund: our oil tank holds 7,500 gallons and can go a long time without being filled, but the oil bill can be huge when the time comes.

There will be a complete report on the Holy Trinity Endowment Fund in the Annual Report, but below is an interim report. All the endowment funds within the Holy Trinity Endowment, except the Shepherd Fund, are restricted to income only and much of the income is restricted as well:

Permanently Restricted Principal (By Donor)

Market value 9/30/12

Buckley Fund (1942: interest restricted to Tangible Property or seminary student)	53,063.27
Storey Fund (1970: interest unrestricted)	10,762.43
Hobbs Fund (1976: interest unrestricted)	2,970.27
Fitzpatrick Fund (1979: interest restricted for Book Scholarship)	5,070.78
Wells Fund (1982: interest restricted to music program of Holy Trinity Church)	144,688.05
Parrettie Fund (1990: interest restricted to poor of church)	139,087.13
Emeline & George Watson Fund (2006: principal and interest for communion wine)	1,054.02
Holy Trinity Legacy Fund (2013: income only for non operating budget)	2,000.00

Board Restricted Principal

Fannie Wall Fund (1997: interest for Altar)	4,243.80
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Unrestricted Principal

Shepherd Fund (1989: interest unrestricted)	3,352.35
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Total	\$366,292.10
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We are very grateful to ALL who pledged and gave offerings to God and have kept their pledges up-to-date through the transition. The vestry had anticipated the need to use the Gertrude Brennan gift of \$10,961, but we were able to restore those funds and set them aside for an intentional use in the coming year. The vestry and finance committee are also grateful to the fundraising committees who collectively raised \$2,779.55 to help with the operating budget this year. We will mention only the chairs: Karen Ballou: Yard Sale, Hope Wilson: Rice-O-Rama, and Tamsin Lucey: Holiday Pies, but they could not have accomplished their tasks without their teams of helpers....you know who you are!!

But above all we are grateful for your presence as we gather as a community, the Body of Christ, and become the hands, feet, and face of Jesus on Hamilton Street!

Christmas Blessings,

Susan Howland, Chair for the Committee: Jerry Helbig, Tamsin Lucey, Lana Pieczynski, and Nancy Waugh

ACOLYTE NEWS

I would like to introduce myself. I am Chris Briere and I currently serve as the acolyte ministry leader at Holy Trinity Church. I am available to work with anyone interested in learning or reviewing the responsibilities of the acolyte, and I will oversee the acolyte schedule. The acolyte ministry, open to adults and children, is an opportunity to be part of the worship team and will help develop your spiritual understanding of the liturgy (Order of service.)

Did you know...

There is now a weekly sign up poster board for anyone who is interested in serving; the sign up poster board is at the back of the church. We would like to have either one (or three) acolytes for the 10:15 Sunday service, so we can assist our Priest at the Altar. Your participation and support of the acolyte program will enhance the worship at Holy Trinity. For more information or for a better understanding of this important ministry, please contact me at "Thatnicesmile@aol.com" or 774-230-9518. There are informational brochures on the sign up poster board at the back of the church and thank you for your gift of servant leadership.

*Seeking the Bride of Christ without blemish,
Chris Briere*



ZUMBA FITNESS CLASSES AT HTC **Start 2013 with a fitness resolution!**

Zumba fitness classes start Wednesday, January 2nd, and every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. Scheduled cancellations will be announced in the Sunday Service Bulletins and on the Holy Trinity Website.

Snow cancellations will follow the Southbridge High school after-school activities: if they are cancelled, so is Zumba. 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



MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

Many thanks for your generous gifts to the Missions Plate over the past year. Our end-of-the-year project was to raise money to give animals to needy families at Christmas-time. While the final figure is not in as of this report, at least \$451.81 (and likely over \$500) will have been received to send to World Vision in response to the appeal to give animals at Christmas-time. This will enable us to help a number of families by providing at least 13 farm animals including a pig, sheep, goat and 10 chickens. These animals will provide milk, eggs, meat, and more – for years to come. And as the animals multiply, families can sell surplus food for extra income. Among the gifts received were the following:

- **A donation of \$100 from Lynn Garland "in thanksgiving for my sister, niece and nephew".**
 - **A gift of \$125 from Sue and John Lindsay "in honor of our 18 grandchildren".**

This month's missions plate giving will put our total giving for foreign missions well over \$3,000.

Thanks again, John Lindsay, Chair

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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

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

Friday in January—7:30 a.m.—Tai Chi

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

**Tuesday, January 1—4:00 p.m.—Gathering on Hamilton Street
5:00 p.m.—Family Worship**

Wednesday, January 2—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Thursday, January 3—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Saturday, January 5—9:00 a.m.—Parish Profile Committee Mtg.

Sunday, January 6—9:00 a.m.—Epiphany Potluck Brunch

Monday, January 7—6:30 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, January 8—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Thursday, January 10—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Sunday, January 13—10:15 a.m.—Family Worship

Tuesday, January 15—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

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

5:00 p.m.—Family Worship

Wednesday, January 16—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

3:45 p.m.—Daughters of the King

Sunday, January 20—9:00 a.m.—Annual Meeting Eucharist Svc.

Tuesday, January 22—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Thursday, January 24—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Sunday, January 27—10:15 a.m.—Family Worship

Tuesday, January 29—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer

Thursday, January 31—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer