



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

January 2017

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John Grant
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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

*"Wide, wide in the rose's side
Sleeps a child without sin,
And any [one] who loves in this world
Stands here on guard over Him." - Kenneth Patchen*

Dear friends,

What gladsome light surrounds us on every side as the Nativity of Christ nears! Perhaps your home is replete with exterior lighting, an illuminated Santa with elves and reindeer. And colorful bulbs and decorations on your tree. How fitting, because in this happy time we remember the birth of Christ, the Light of God's Love. "Light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome...." John 1:5

The world we live in is full of intrigues, and political posturing, and armed conflict, and racial suspicion, and fragmentation of community based on culture and national origin or sexual orientation.

And there is God's answer, Jesus; and God's people who carry the light to these places darkened by unreasonable fear and anxiety. We who Love, carry God's light into places otherwise left in doubt. Where anyone "who loves in this world" is standing guard over the soul and Spirit of the child Jesus, while the birthing of Hope extends the Incarnation ever deeper into the recesses.

Rejoice, people of the light! Gladden your heart and take the strength to reveal your faith to those who live apart from the Lord. For the way of Love is still more excellent and joyful. May Christ bring the hearts of all to a place of joy and refreshment. Many, many blessings on you all this Christmastide. I remain, yours in Christ,

(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore

THANKSGIVINGS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

Thank you the Family Worship team for another fabulous Christmas pageant. The children were adorable and it was a delight to watch them. Thank you to Josh Spooner for videotaping the production of Star Search, making special memories at Holy Trinity that the children will remember when they are older.

I am also grateful and give thanks for the First Communion Class offered to the community by Fr. Richard with help from Eileen DeMings. It was wonderful to see all the families in church to receive communion together with their children. The children received certificates for attending the classes and learning about the sacraments.

I would like to wish my Holy Trinity family a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year. I invite you all to join us on Sunday, January 22, 2017, for our annual meeting. Please join us and prayerfully support your new vestry moving forward in the Jesus Movement of the Episcopal Church in 2017.

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

Nancy Waugh

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir is taking a break from rehearsals after church for the month of January. We will still meet before church at 9:00 a.m. to go over the hymns. Anyone is welcome to join us for the Sunday morning run through of the hymns. Don't be shy, if you are at the church just come and sing.

Anne Bouvier-Monroe



LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 AT 9:30 A.M.



CHILDREACH SPONSOR CHILD FOR 2017

The sign-up sheet has been placed on the back table of the church to help support Nicholas Onyango Okondo.

Please consider supporting this important ministry by signing up to sponsor Nicholas for a month (or two) in 2017. The sponsorship is \$33.00 per month. A postcard will be mailed to you as a reminder that your donation is due. Thank you! Please make sure you note "Sponsor Child" on your check.

Sunday Services Inclement Weather Closure Plan for Winter 2017

Every Sunday in January, weather permitting, there will be a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. Please know that if, due to inclement weather, it is deemed necessary to cancel the service or hold Morning Prayer instead, and the means to do so is in place, an announcement will be posted on the Holy Trinity Web page, Facebook, and an all parish email sent out.

Please consider the road conditions and parking availability when making your decision to attend the service. If you are in any doubt please contact either the

Senior Warden—Nancy Waugh 413-245-3307
or 413-883-4491

or

Jr. Warden—John Grant 860-923-9691 or
860-576-2148.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3—Harry Theodoss

4—Roy Baum, Jr.

19—Pam Graham

28—Jonathan Khattar

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 November 2016

November 2016 Financial Report

Income

- The pledge deficit is \$4,260 over the budgeted arrearage as expected.
- If December holds, we will end the year with overall income over budget; the YMCA rent is not budgeted, but available for necessary repair and maintenance when needed.
- Fundraising is over budget. If there are no outstanding receipts, the pie net is \$900. Thanks to all who worked so hard on fundraising! Next year we hope to reduce the budgeted amount for fundraising which will leave more room for designated fundraising if desired.

Expense

- It looks like we will end the year under budget on many line items even though we went over budget by \$27,400. Most of that expense was for the capital improvements: fire alarm, roof, brick repair that was funded from reserves and from YMCA rent/donation.
- A few lines are intentionally over budget, funded from money available or set aside (Like VBS).
- The building fund has \$1,000 and the reserve fund \$9,400.
- There is enough money in the insurance reserve to pay the 2017 bill in full which will come in at the end of December.

Other News

- We are waiting on some information and quotes for the downstairs kitchen renovations to bring the kitchen to health department code.
- We had some thermostat repairs, but have not received a bill yet.
- The vestry voted a draft budget pending a few outstanding pledges.
- As reported in October there has been significant outreach to various ministries in our community and world.

Susan Howland, Treasurer



Please Join Us



EPIPHANY POTLUCK AGAPE MEAL

Including Family Eucharist, in the Parish Hall

JANUARY 6, 2017

Friends and Families share supper, hymns, readings, and communion 'round the same table.

6:00 p.m. – Gathering Music

6:15 p.m. – Service

6:40 p.m. – Potluck Supper

Please bring a dish to share (main, side or dessert). Beverages provided. This service and potluck supper celebrates the Eucharist in an informal, early Christian format. This invitation is open to parishioners, their friends and family, and the community. Please join us at whatever time works for your schedule.

RSVP by January 5 (helpful but not necessary) to Nancy Waugh or Tamsin Lucey.



Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

January 8 & 22

When families come together to worship with kids in mind.



THE MISSION PLATE

Greetings from Arizona. We are experiencing above normal temperatures as I write this. Maybe even 80 degrees today, but temperatures will be falling soon. You know what winter is really like with cold, snow and ice in the northeast! And it is just as bad or worse in the Dakotas on Indian reservations.

Running Strong for American Indian Youth is a nonprofit organization that helps to bring resources to the Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River Sioux reservations in South Dakota. This means heat, food, water, blankets, clothing and other things needed to survive the cold on the Plains. Please go on their website to learn more about the organization. Then you will be able to appreciate what every dollar we raise in the mission plate will mean to those families.

Please join me this January in raising our donation to Running Strong for American Indian Youth! Stay warm and safe, and may God bless us in our giving.

Suzy Sharp [774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426)
sharpgiberson@earthlink.net

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



ALL PARISHIONERS INVITED TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

snow date February 5

8:45 AM-9:15 AM

Presentation of the 2017 budget, in the Parish Hall

9:30 AM

Eucharist Service incorporating the Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)

11:00 AM

Conversation & coffee in the Parish Hall

*Printed annual meeting reports available by request

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

Wednesday, January 4, 7:30-9:00PM, What Was Jesus Doing?

Wednesday, January 18, 7:30-9:00PM, What Was Jesus Doing?

Please see Fr. Richard for location!

LOAVES AND FISHES

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Trinity Church,

Over the years you have placed food into the baskets at the back of the church for the St John Paul II food pantry. For the last several years we have used a variety of ways to engage the parish in this ministry and starting in January 2017, we will be doing something different! People are still encouraged to donate food items as they are able, BUT, starting in January 2017, we will also have a sign up sheet at the back of the church for each month of the year - the idea is that individuals would place their name next to a month - and they would bring food for the food pantry in during that month! They can bring in whatever food they like - just one item, multiples of one item, or everything needed for a meal or more. You can choose what to give! More than one person can sign up for a month and you can of course sign up for multiple months. If you have any questions or comments - please talk with Tamsin Lucey, [774 200 4279](tel:7742004279),



BABY SHOWER

We are very excited and happy to announce that there are two parishioners who are expecting babies (both boys) early in 2017. The season of Epiphany starts on January 6, the day that we celebrate the visit of the Three Kings to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus. The Three Kings brought gifts - the finest gifts that they could bring - to Jesus to mark his birth. We invite parishioners and friends of Holy Trinity to also bring gifts to welcome the two babies in our midst. We would like to shower our expectant mothers with the basic needs that every new mother needs - diapers (new born boy),



baby wipes (fragrance free), clothing for newborn and up to 3 months, receiving blankets, blankets, towels, cotton balls, diaper bag, etc. Gift cards to Walmart are always useful. Before purchasing large items like a car seat, baby bath, crib, etc., please talk with Tamsin Lucey to make sure it is still needed. Items can be placed in the box provided at the back of the church or in the parish hall. On January 6, the Three Kings brought gifts to a baby - on January 6 and throughout January let us bring gifts to welcome the babies in our midst.



Please talk with Tamsin Lucey if you have any questions: [774 200 4279](tel:7742004279), [508 347 1414](tel:5083471414), or after church!

WINTER COAT CLOSET

Christmas Greetings!

The Winter Coat Closet sends thanks to all who donated winter coats as well as mittens, scarves, and boots. We were able to help more than 250 individuals stay warmer and we could only do this with help from our community. There is no better joy than seeing someone come in from this frigid cold with a thin sweatshirt on, and go out with a warm coat and big smile! We will be closed for the next few weeks and will reopen Saturday, January 7 & 14, to ensure that we have served as many as we can!

Have a blessed and joyous Christmas!

Chris McTigue, Coordinator
Winter Coat Closet

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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

Sunday, January 1—9:30 a.m.—Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 4—7:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine Study—HTC

Friday, January 6—6:00 p.m.—Epiphany Agape Supper

Sunday, January 8—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Wednesday, January 11—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting & Book Study

Wednesday, January 18—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King Meeting

Wednesday, January 18—7:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine Study—TBD

Sunday, January 22—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Sunday, January 29—8:45 a.m.—Presentation of 2017 Budget

Sunday, January 29—9:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist & Annual Meeting