

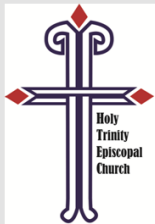


Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

June 2016

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Secretary:

Chris Bolte
Office: (508) 765-9559
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
E-mail:
holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com
Web site: holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Priest-in-Charge:

The Rev. Richard Signore
richard.signore@verizon.net

Organist:

Anne Bouvier-Monroe

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,

Bishop Douglas Fisher will be with us for Sunday morning service and coffee hour on June 5th. He will Confirm and Receive, share with us his vision for the Jesus movement in today's world, and meet with the Vestry to dream together about Hamilton St.

The "Bishop" has a unique and rich role in our Church - "Episcopal" being the New Testament term for "Bishop," or 'over-seer.' He (or she) acts as the one who carries the Apostle's message about the 'life, death and resurrection of Jesus' into this new generation. So it is the Bishop who examines and blesses the faith of new members. But much more, the Bishop brings the wisdom and learning of the world wide church to us, even as he learns of our victories and represents the needs of the local parish to shape the world Church. And he calls us, in each local parish, to a personal growth in bold joy to share Jesus' life.

So ask Bishop Doug what the Universal Church has to show us about bringing the life of Jesus to our local neighborhood. His plan for June 20th. And, if you can, please wear the color "orange" on June the 5th!! (you can ask me why?!!). Each, in one's own way, brings their gift to offer, and God is glorified in God's church. And so brings joy. I remain,

Your friend in Christ,

(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore

THANKSGIVINGS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

Your vestry has been hard at work since our Vestry Retreat in April. We spent the afternoon of the retreat discussing ideas for a Hispanic ministry. In the weeks following the retreat, vestry members spent time researching the need, the possibilities and the feasibility of a Hispanic ministry at Holy Trinity. We invited Tom Callard Dean at the Cathedral to come to our May vestry meeting. Tom came to the diocese from Los Angeles and was the Hispanic minister for the diocese before becoming Dean. Tom came to our meeting with his Hispanic team and they all shared their stories about what attracted them to the Episcopal Church. Tom gave the vestry many ideas about getting started and is willing to come and help us in any way he can. The email strings that have been generated from this meeting have been exciting. My biggest take away from the meeting is it is about building relationships and trust with a small group in the community. He recommended starting a group that has a religious focus like a prayer group, women's group, or offering a first communion class.

Also at the April vestry meeting was Karen Bodamer from Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Karen came to explain the grant she has received to build a community garden. She shared the plan she and Tamsin have come up with for the Community garden event at Holy Trinity and the Cross St. garden. This was the perfect lead in to building relationship with the community.

I hope you all can join us for the Bishop's visit on June 5, 2016. There will be three confirmations we will celebrate at coffee hour following the service. The bishop will also be meeting with the vestry following a brief visit to the coffee hour. The bishop will be asking the vestry about our plans for a Hispanic ministry, and to answer questions from the Healthy Mission Focused Congregation survey from the diocese. The vestry answered those questions at last year's vestry retreat and reviewed them at this year's retreat.

We need to listen because I think the Holy Spirit is up to something at Holy Trinity.

Nancy Waugh

Music Notes

A big thank you to the choir for their donation of time and talent to help us with our music program at Holy Trinity Church this past season. You have enhanced our services and I truly appreciate your support. We will begin again in October, 2016 unless there is a special service that I need your support. God Bless you this summer.

I am looking for volunteers to sing or play an instrument this summer during the offertory. Please speak to me if you are interested or you may email me at anniebouv@gmail.com or call my number [508-612-1246](tel:508-612-1246).

Anne Bouvier-Monroe

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Summer is on its way and it is salad season! Even so there will be just as many families visiting the food pantries. Thank you for your continued donations to the Loaves and Fishes ministry. Your donations of food, placed lovingly in the Food Pantry basket are eagerly accepted by the St. John Paul Food Pantry. Each and every donation is a blessing to those in need. On Sunday June 5 2016 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 items suitable for salads; green bean, tuna, chicken, dressings etc are always appreciated at this time of the year. Food returned by Sunday June 26 will be blessed before going to the pantry that week. As we are blessed may we be a blessing.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me".

Tamsin Lucey & Bill Nelson.



Holy Trinity Church Financial Report April 2016

On the income side

- Pledges are behind \$3,509 the budget amount after correcting for pre-paid pledges. This is improved from last month.
- Line 4009 · Plate Offering - Regular/ Other is over budget due to a large non-pledged payment.
- The other lines are within budget.

On the expense side

- All expense lines are within budget with these exceptions:
 - Lines 5302 · Church, Capital Improvement and 5301 · Church Repair/Maintenance are both over budget; some of these expenses may be recovered from the YMCA rental income as they were necessary for the rental.
 - Line 5203 · Utilities- Electric Church is over budget and is a direct result of the YMCA rental. Insurance is paid once a year and reserved monthly, so the line will look under budget.
 - We have outstanding bills for minor organ repair and our portion of the engineer's stamped drawing for the fire alarm system: \$2,750.
 - Worker's Comp insurance is always an estimate and balance billing is done after the prior year audit. Our insurance was low because we did not have a salaried priest. Now that Fr. Richard is on the payroll our insurance increased. We paid an additional \$277 for 2015 and next year the Worker's Comp will be around \$400/yr.

The finance committee met on April 25th and a report was submitted to the vestry.

Susan Howland, Treasurer



HTEC Old Fashioned Summer Cookout on July 3rd

Food served 3:00-4:30 pm

Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Homemade Baked Beans, Pies, Watermelon, Iced Tea and Lemonade.

Parishioners, their families, friends, neighbors, and the community are all invited!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help is needed, can you please provide: Baked Beans in a crock pot ready to serve?

Help set up? - following Hospitality Hour; Help clean up? - 4:30-5:30 pm

If YES, please sign up on the volunteer form on the Narthex table, speak to Tamsin Lucey after church, or call 774-200-4279.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4 – Teddy DeMings
23 – Joe DiSalvatore

14 – Joe Pieczynski
24 – Barbara Meservey

22 – Trish Briere
28 – Chris Bolte

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!

The YMCA Daycare at Holy Trinity Church

The YMCA daycare has been temporarily located in the classroom wing of Holy Trinity Church since December 1, 2015. They also use the small auxiliary kitchen to serve their meals, and the undercroft and fenced yard for gross motor activities. The YMCA program has 35 children, five and under, including infants in cribs. It is really a delight to visit on a weekday and see all the charming kids that the YMCA services every weekday from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm. This partnership has been going well and I think we can agree that repurposing the space is a win-win for the YMCA, the children, and Holy Trinity. Re-purposing is a creative use of church space, but it also comes with its challenges.

In March the YMCA let us know that while our building certificate covers our fire protection, once we rented to a daycare center the fire code changed and our current fire protection system is no longer satisfactory for their daycare license. The YMCA is committed to staying at Holy Trinity, probably until January 2017, and they offered to pay 50% of the cost of upgrading the fire alarm system in the downstairs to bring it up to code for a daycare center, and I might add any other use.

The vestry voted to proceed with a fire alarm system and over the last two months we obtained an engineer's design for a fire alarm system that will meet the requirements of the Massachusetts fire code and we put the project out to bid. We have a bid that fits our financial realities and the vestry agreed to move ahead with a new fire alarm system for the whole church. Work will commence on June 13th and should be finished by June 21th. The new system will replace the fifty-year-old antiquated heat detection system we have now.

So, how much will the fire alarm system cost?? This is a little complicated, but the system will cost the church about \$21,500 and will cost the YMCA \$11,500 for a total of \$33,000. In addition, we will need to put \$250 in the annual budget for monitoring and testing the system and minor repairs; this is a Massachusetts fire code requirement. The YMCA rent will help offset the cost of not only the downstairs, but the whole church. This is A LOT of money, but if we did not proceed the YMCA would have had to move out, which would not be a win-win for anyone. And, we will now be up to code for all possible building use. We are happy to answer any questions about the decision or process. On a historical note from the archives: *"On October 12, 1930, just after the Rev. Mr. Urban had left to become canon at the cathedral in Springfield, fire struck Holy Trinity Church. The church was closed and the congregation again was worshipping in a rented hall, this time at the YMCA."* And the Holy Spirit moves again!



Yours in Christ,

Susan Howland, for the building committee and vestry.

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

June 12 & 26

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



THE BISHOP IS COMING!!!

Bishop Doug Fisher will be at Holy Trinity on Sunday, June 5, as members of our congregation are received and confirmed. Please wear orange!!



THE MISSION PLATE

I know that many of us who remember Father Bill Hobbs and his family are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. His son, Chris, died suddenly on May 7, 2016.. It was suggested that Mission plate donations for June be sent to Reconciliation House in memory of Chris. This sober house in Webster, connected with Church of the Reconciliation, will help those fighting addictions and returning to the community.

Please support this most urgently needed program, and pray for Father Bill, Shirley, Kimmie, Jane and all those who loved and cared for Chris. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Suzy Sharp



Community Garden Next Steps

The Holy Spirit is stirring us to action!

Things are falling into place: June 4 is the kick off date for the Community Garden Project a partnership with Bethlehem Church, the Town of Southbridge and ourselves. At the Church, the Town Community Gardens on Cross Street and Worcester St. straw bales are in place and are being conditioned by community members in preparation for planting. Containers have been donated by parishioners and Big Bunny (wooden vegetable crates – great repurposing/reusing) Compost is being delivered, plants purchased, seeds donated, all arriving just in time for June 4. Neighbors, from Hamilton St, Oliver St. Cross St and Charlton St. are chatting with me and Karen Bodamer (Bethlehem Lutheran Church) and coming forward to help with planting, tending, watering, weeding and of course harvesting. They are interested to know what is going on and how they can be involved and want to share spreading the word about the benefits of home grown vegetables, and the relative ease with which they can be grown even without any yard to call your own.

June 4 from 9 to 10:30 am in front of the church, people; – anyone, parishioners, neighbors, family, friends, guests, children, adults – can fill a container with compost and plant a vegetable plant or 3 or more, take it home tend it and harvest the produce. There will also be the opportunity to plant in the straw bales and containers that will be in the front of our building forming a temporary community garden that neighbors will water, tend and harvest. Please join us as you are able to plant and take home or leave at the church.

June 4 from 11 to 3:00 pm at Cross St. a free lunch will be served to anyone wishing to participate in any way with weeding the community plots, planting in containers or the straw bales. People will also be able to take containers with plants in, home to grow and harvest for themselves. 5 of the 6 plots are already spoken for.

Father Richard and Pastor Kirsten will both be blessing the Community Garden in front of the church at 10:15 am and at Cross St 11:15 am.

June 11 from 9 to 12:00 at Worcester St a free breakfast will be served to anyone wishing to participate in the Community Garden there. This will also be another opportunity for people to take containers with plants in home to grown and harvest themselves. 6 of the 7 plots are already spoken for.

Each of these activities gives us opportunities to engage in conversation with our neighbors, we can get to know each other better, to be the Face, Hands and Feet of Jesus on Hamilton St. as we are called to be a presence on Hamilton St. and in this neighborhood.

If you are at all interested in this new emerging and exciting ministry or would just like to know more as plans unfold please contact Tamsin Lucey 774 200 4279.



Holy Trinity Church has established an Organ Fund

Holy Trinity has a lovely pipe organ, and a fine organist. Like all instruments the organ needs regular care and repair. Thanks to a few unrestricted donations the vestry has established an Organ Fund that will hold donations for the ongoing needs of the organ. If you love music, love organs, love the glorious organ sounds on a Sunday morning you are welcome to contribute to this fund at any time!

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

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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

Wednesday, June 1—7:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study

Saturday, June 4—9:00 a.m.—Community Garden Event at HTC

Sunday, June 5—9:30 a.m.—Confirmation Sunday

Wednesday, June 8—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting & Book Study

Sunday, June 12—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Wednesday, June 15—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King

Sunday, June 26—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship