



# Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

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## A MESSAGE FROM JUDITH

*The man, Jesus — a very human carpenter, born in a humble stall to an unmarried mother,  
whose three-year ministry of presence transformed the world.*

Dear friends of Holy Trinity Church...

This year during Lent, we read from the Gospel According to Luke on all but one Sunday. Each lesson emphasizes Jesus' wisdom and compassion, as well as his commitment to truth-telling and peace-making.

The Gospel appointed for Lent I tells of Jesus being driven into the wilderness, where he is tempted, three times, by the devil. On Lent II, we see Jesus being steadfast in his mission in the face of threats, both from King Herod and from members of his own community. On Lent III, Jesus offers a reminder of God's patient forbearance in the parable of the fig tree. In this parable, Jesus tells us God is ready and willing to forgive all our sins whenever we are ready and willing to change our ways. The parable of the prodigal son, heard on the fourth Sunday of Lent, describes the joy we experience when we receive God's unconditional love. This year, on Lent V we read from the Gospel According to John. The setting is a meal at the home of Lazarus, who was raised by Jesus from the dead. The sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, each play a role in this story, which foreshadows the events of Jesus' Passion.

*Tidings from the Rector continued on page 2....*

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

Continued from page 1.....

The Lenten Gospels shows us the unique clarity of Jesus' vision. Jesus repeatedly meets temptation, faces challenges, and proclaims God's infinite, all-embracing love. He also encounters demands, misunderstandings, human extravagance and human despair. Yet through it all, Jesus remains a compassionate, non-anxious presence. We sometimes wonder how this is possible.

The answer is, in part, found in the spiritual disciplines which are at the heart of Jesus' capacities. During Lent, along with Christians throughout the world, we are invited to join with Jesus in being intentional about our own spiritual disciplines (prayer, meditation, silent reflection, loving service to others).

It is important to remember that spiritual disciplines are not meant to be harsh or punishing. Because although Lent is a penitential season, our penitence can serve God, others, and ourselves most fully if we find peace and joy in whatever we choose as our Lenten practices. It is healthful to seek a deepening of our spiritual life through a kind and caring approach to reforming ourselves: by service to others, through quiet contemplation, through praise, and with prayers of thanksgiving for blessings received. Some people like to follow a meditative ritual during Lent, such as reading "The Way of the Cross" one day a week, or by taking a silent retreat for a day, a half-day, or a weekend. Others prefer to read the Daily Office, either alone or in the company of others, to keep a journal of brief writings about the joys and despairs one experiences on a daily basis, or to gather in a study group to discuss matters of faith with other people.

Each of us probably has an idea about what "works" for us in terms of spiritual discipline, or spiritual practice. I hope you will share your thoughts and perspectives about such disciplines. One of the benefits of membership in a faith community is that others can learn from us — and we from them. Opening ourselves to different "ways of being" with God, in prayer, worship, and praise, can greatly aid our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. Learning new ways to experience God's magnificence, and to feel God's love, can add richness and depth to our lives, and will most surely strengthen our Christian faith.

I believe that the season of Lent is a perfect time for such learning!

Your sister in Christ, Judith +

### **SERVING ON SUNDAY MORNING**

If you are interested in becoming an acolyte here at Holy Trinity Church, to serve at either the 8:00 a.m. or the 10:15 a.m. service, please speak with Judith+ our supply priest about training for this ministry.

### **"THE ROLE OF THE ACOLYTE"**

*by Chris Briere*

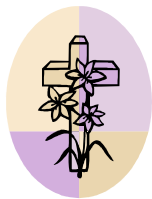
The first line of the "Meditation of the Acolyte" found in the leaflet, "Leadership of the Acolyte", located at the back of the church, is to put on the "Full Armor of God". Eph 6:11

When an Acolyte robes, they put on the "Full Armor of God" in preparation for their role to support the Priest at the altar. By putting on the robe, we give up our individual identity and take on the role of servant-leader.

### **GATHERING ON HAMILTON STREET**

As part of your Lenten journey of discovery and renewal, please join others gathered in the parish hall for a simple supper of soup & bread. Special Lenten placemats will make interesting reading and topics of conversation! Soup will be ready at 5:00 p.m. and is available until 7:00 p.m. on March 4th and March 19th. Anyone interested in helping to make soup is welcome to come and help any time after 4:00 p.m. ~Tamsin Lucey

## EASTER MEMORIALS



During Easter 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, March 24th**. The money for these memorials is used for flowers given to God's glory as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Exact wording of memorial will be:** Easter 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 use, 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, March 24th**. Please make checks payable to **Holy Trinity Church** with the notation "*Easter Memorials*" on the memo line. \*\*Do you know someone who would appreciate Easter flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so that the Altar Guild can arrange to bring them flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

### **JOIN US DURING LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**



**Sunday, March 24 @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion:** Liturgy of the Palms & Reading of the Passion narrative, with Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Thursday, March 28 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday liturgy:** Stripping of the Altar, and Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**9:00 p.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Overnight Prayer Vigil at Holy Trinity Church:** Sign up to serve a one-hour shift, keeping watch with Christ on his last night on earth.

**Friday, March 29 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday service:** Stations of the Cross and Holy Eucharist from the Reserve Sacrament

**Sunday, March 31: Easter: the Sunday of the Resurrection**

**8:00 a.m.** - A quietly joyful service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**10:15 a.m.** - Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with music

## OVERNIGHT PRAYER VIGIL AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Can you spare just 1 hour of your time for prayer this Lenten season? We will start our prayer vigil immediately following the Maundy Thursday service on March 28 and will continue in 1 hour increments into Good Friday. We need all slots to be filled and you can feel free to come alone or bring a friend, spouse, other family-member etc. The church is kept securely locked throughout the vigil with the person in the church only opening the door to their successor. This can be a very powerful moment of prayer, reflection and meditation and an integral part of the Easter experience for you individually, and for Holy Trinity as a church body.

Devotional materials, prayer booklets, and other helpful meditational reading will be left in the sanctuary for your use and each prayer volunteer is encouraged to leave prayer requests that others, who follow, will pray for. Look for the sign-up sheet at the back of the church!

*-Lana Pieczynski*

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

At the end of February we donated 5 complete meals in a bag, and a bag of extra food. Thank you for your contributions – food makes all the difference to those who are hungry! Each month, we come **together** each with a "loaf or fish" and collectively we **provide** meals for families in need. This ministry only exists because of the support from parishioners. The labels will be on the board at the back of the church on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Please take a label or two from the board and bring the food to church for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, when Rev. Judith will bless the food. Thank you.

*With Love, Peace and Joy in our hearts and Service & Ministry on our minds: Pat, Josh and Tamsin*

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1–John Grant  
2–Susan Grant  
4–Ellen Anderstrom  
7–Laura Gervais  
9 – Bridgette Bachand  
9 – Jack Burns  
10 – Benjamin Normandin  
12–Abigail Bullard  
13–Sof Kollios  
19–Anthony Theodoss  
24–Jennifer Lucey  
31–Christopher Ballou

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

## YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Join us for Family Worship on the 2nd Sunday @ 10:15 am (March 10th) . Look in the Sunday service bulletins or on the web site for other possible Youth Christian Formation activities during March.

**Please note: Family Worship is NO longer offered on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights.**

Youth and their families are welcome at Gathering on Hamilton Street nights for soup, bread and fellowship. Look for more information about family fellowship in the Sunday service bulletin and/or Holy Trinity church website.

*~Lana Pieczynski*

## LENTEN CALENDARS

Lenten calendars with family activities and daily Lenten stickers are available on the table in the Narthex.

## **Holy Trinity Church January 2013 Financial Figures**

Total Monthly Receipts: \$11,476.96

Total Monthly Income Required for Budget: \$11,623.02

Total Monthly Expenditures : \$8,250.54



## STEWARDSHIP OF OUR HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY

In this time of transition we are answering the questions how God has gifted our congregation. The Parish Profile Committee is answering a very important stewardship question with the help of the parish questionnaire: Where has God gifted our congregation? Answering this question as a community is the beginning of communal stewardship.

Holy Trinity last year became better stewards of our endowments forming an Endowment Committee and restoring endowments to reflect the intentions of the giver and the original gift. The Stewardship Prayer Group and the Finance Committee collaborated in an effort to educate our parishioners and be transparent about our finances. Our annual meeting was an example of communal stewardship. Incorporating the annual meeting into the Sunday worship service and sharing in the Holy Eucharist.

Mission and stewardship is the theme in the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand in Matthew 14:13-21. Mission isn't possible without stewardship and stewardship isn't healthy without mission. Are we willing to trust God and use what God has given us, in order to address our missional challenges to become a healthy mission focused congregation?

~Nancy Waugh

## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING SELF-DENIAL FUND

The *Daughters of the King* is a lay order for women in the Episcopal Church. Membership in the order, founded in 1885 by Margaret J. Franklin, today includes women who worship in many Christian denominations. *Daughters of the King* undertake a rule of life, which incorporates prayer and service. In addition, they pledge themselves to strengthen the spiritual life of their parish and to spread the Good News of God in Christ. Through this commitment to evangelism they also support the *Daughters of the King* "Self-Denial Fund," created in 1897 by Lily Funsten Ward, who was a missionary to China. Today, the "Self-Denial Fund" supports missionary efforts world-wide.

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, February 2, is designated annually as the date for in-gathering of "Self-Denial Fund" contributions, although donations are accepted at any time by the *Daughters of the King*.

To learn more about the *Fund*, or to make a donation: [http://www.doknational.com/funds.html#self\\_denial](http://www.doknational.com/funds.html#self_denial)

*Susan L. Grant; Treasurer, and Laura Gervais, President of the Martha & Mary Chapter of the D.O.K.*

## PARRETTIE COMMITTEE

The 2013 Parrettie Committee comprises the Senior Warden—Tamsin Lucey, Junior Warden—Nancy Waugh, and three people who may or may not be a member of the vestry. Jerry Helbig, Barbara Kalber and Peg Nelson have agreed to fill these positions for 2013. Those wishing to request Parrettie funds may talk to any committee member to learn the guidelines and the application process.

~Peg Nelson

## **VESTRY NEWS**

The Vestry for this year is as follows: Sr. Warden—Tamsin Lucey, Jr. Warden—Nancy Waugh, Treasurer— Susan Howland, Clerk— Jean Frost, and members Peg Nelson, Mick Kalber and Ellen Lincourt. Since the annual meeting, we have met twice; on January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>. Going forward, our regular meeting day, time and place will be the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m. in the parish hall – all members of the parish/congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend. Minutes of vestry meetings will be available once they have been approved. They will be e-mailed with the Tidings; if you would like a paper copy please call or email Chris, our parish administrator. Our goals for this year are to be good stewards of our resources- time, talents and treasures -and to listen for and discern God's call for us as we continue on our path towards God's preferred and promised future. In the absence of a functioning Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Vestry will be working to prioritize repair and maintenance of our buildings. The Profile Committee is putting the final touches on the Parish Profile and will be finished with their work by March 11th. The Search Committee begins its work at the beginning of March. They will keep the vestry abreast of their work. The vestry will deal with issues as they arise in as timely a manner as possible. Also on the calendar for this month is the diocesan led Vestry and Wardens Day and a New Wardens and Treasurers Day. In April, Pastor Judith will be leading a Vestry Retreat. Everyone on the Vestry is excited to be serving God and Holy Trinity. We ask that you keep us all in your prayers.

*Jean Frost, Clerk*

## **PARISH PROFILE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The PPC has been hard at work. We are in the final stages of completing Holy Trinity's Parish Profile, an online document that tells the story of who we are, who is God calling us to become and what kind of clergy leadership is needed in order for us to achieve our vision. The Parish Profile will be posted on the Holy Trinity website by March 11th when it will also be presented at a deployment conference for clergy. By this time the Search Committee will have met at least once. It is hoped that from this conference, candidates will be referred to the Search Committee. We look forward to sharing our work with the Parish in march and ask that you now pray for the Search Committee.

*Blessings, Eileen DeMings*

## **LIVING FAITH 2013**

The Ecumenical Fellowship Community invites you to Living Faith 2013: What does Lent mean to you? This round table discussion workshop will be held on Sunday, March 17th from 2pm-4pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sturbridge. Come and share your thoughts, hopes, and prayers for the Lenten season with your fellow community. For further information, contact EFC representatives Eileen DeMings or Lana Pieczynski.

**VESTRY MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE BY REQUEST. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY, PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BOLTE, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, DURING OFFICE HOURS OR BY EMAIL.**

**HOLYTRINITYSOUTHBRIDGE@GMAIL.COM OR 508-765-9559 TUESDAY OR THURSDAY.**

### DEACON'S CORNER

What a joy it is going to be, to spend this Lent with the book of John. His opening always thrills me, not that I understand it, but it moves me. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." Years ago there was a priest in our diocese, Father Philbrick. He once told a group he had memorized the first chapter of John and every a.m. he and his wife stood and recited it. What a way to start your day!

In the first chapter of John, we are dealing with John mainly. Then Jesus appears, an ordinary man. Isaiah had prophesied that he was not comely, and one priest, Archer Torrey, speculated that he probably had a childhood disease that left him pock marked. He was not a Hollywood wonder boy! He was ordinary. He appears and John identified him. Would we have believed that this everyday sort of person was the long awaited messiah? Even today we have to look for him – in our ordinary lives, in the faces of loved ones, strangers, the poor, the ones we meet daily, clerks, teachers, those who whine and complain, children, the sick, elderly, etc...these ordinary ones we meet daily, no neglecting to look in our own mirrors!

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we look with fresh eyes this Lent and find Him anew, every day.

*Blessings and success in your search, Mary Hicks*

### CALLING SINGERS OF ALL AGES!

Please consider being part of our "Easter Family Choir," on Sunday, March 31 at the 10:15 a.m. service. We will sing a unison anthem, "This Is the Day," by Natalie Sleeth. All who enjoy singing, including children who don't yet read, will be able to join in.

Sunday choir rehearsals will be held in the Parish Hall on March 3, 10, and 17, from 11:25 - 11:45 a.m., and on Palm Sunday, March 24, from 10:25 - 10:45 a.m. (We have one service at 9:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday.) There will also be a rehearsal on Easter Sunday before the service. Please plan to attend at least two of the four rehearsals prior to Easter Sunday.

*Questions? Call or email Dorothy Frisch.*

### ZUMBA FITNESS CLASSES

Wendy Boutin, the instructor who teaches Zumba every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m., makes everyone – irrespective of age, or Zumba experience - feel welcome and at ease in the class. Snow cancellations will follow the Southbridge High School after-school activities: Zumba is an energetic, done at your own pace, Latin dance exercise program. Come join the fun – 16 and over! Questions? See Bridgette or Tamsin.



Holy Trinity Church, Episcopal  
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. - 1:30 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

\*unless otherwise noted\*

Supply Priest — Rev. 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

### Save These Dates

**Tuesday, in March—7:30 p.m.**—Bible Study

**Wednesday, in March—6:15 p.m.**—Zumba Class

**Sunday, March 3—11:25 a.m.**—Easter Family Choir Rehearsal

**Tuesday, March 5—4:00 p.m.**—Gathering on Hamilton Street

**Sunday, March 10—10:15 a.m.**—Family Worship

**11:25 a.m.**—Easter Family Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, March 11—6:45 p.m.**—Vestry Meeting

**Wednesday, March 13—3:45 p.m.**—Daughters of the King—HTC

**Saturday, March 16—Vestry and Warden's Day, Springfield**

**Sunday, March 17—11:25 a.m.**—Easter Family Choir Rehearsal

**2:00 p.m.**—Living Faith 2013—Bethlehem

Lutheran Church

**Tuesday, March 19—4:00 p.m.**—Gathering on Hamilton Street

**Wednesday, March 20—APRIL TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE**

**Sunday, March 24—9:00 a.m.**—Palm Sunday Service

**10:25 a.m.**—Easter Family Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 28—7:00 p.m.**—Maundy Thursday Service—

Stripping of the Altar and Holy Eucharist

**Friday, March 29—7:00 p.m.**—Good Friday Service—Stations of the

Cross and Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, March 31—8:00 a.m.**—Easter Day—Holy Eucharist

**10:15 a.m.**—Easter Day—Holy Eucharist