



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

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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

Dear friends!

The frigid temperatures of February are just breaking as of this writing. The chaos these introduced also gave vision to an eerie beauty: icy snow; light, dry, ethereal, is blowing in sheets across Hamilton St. while the bright blue sky looks as inviting as a summer's day. But, oh what hits you if you step beyond the door!!!

The meditations of Lent, the journey to the cross, the breaking of the stone before the tomb all point us to an eternal mystery. When life ebbs, Eternity takes and fills the void. It belongs to God, who is Life. The seeds of the new are inherent in the felt losses of the moment; and in the midst of laughter God whispers, "Behold! I am doing something new! Do you not perceive it?" Life appears; Victory rules.

And so the Resurrection People make their way in a Pontius Pilate world. We never stop being confident in joy; despite pain and loss, financial struggles and inequity in the world's goods; for the God who made us, also makes us whole. Come to the journey, as Christ fasts and prays, and offers Himself. He makes us pure before God. And shouts of joy are soon to return, as sure as the icy snow gives way to warmth and fertile earth. Myself, I like those odds!!

Pray, shout, celebrate! Make glad in your God! For a Blessed Eastertide for all we pray! I remain, yours in Christ,

(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore

THANKSGIVINGS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

It has been a very busy first month as Senior Warden. At the first vestry meeting, the vestry quickly picked a date for a vestry retreat—April 2, 2016. The vestry, in addition to other leaders in the church, will be attending the Leadership Day on March 5, 2016 at American International College organized by the diocese. The opportunity to share with other parishes how God is working to do mission in our communities is always inspiring.

The Mardi Gras Pancake Supper was well attended by approximately 45 people. Let me say “thank you” to all who helped. Susan Howland made the pancake batter, John Grant flipped the pancakes and Peter Lucey cooked the sausage. Thank you to Abby and Bradon Bullard for their help serving and loading the dishwasher. Thank you to Trish O’Brien-Briere for decorating, and the set-up staff of Barbara Wilson, Diane Nichols, Ray Beaupre and the Kalbers. Thank you to Dave Monroe who offered rides to those who did not want to park on Hamilton Street, and stood on the street to promote the supper.

Thank you to the Family Worship Team. Thank you to Anita Bullard and Lana Pieczynski for organizing the Souper Bowl sale on February 7, 2016. Thank you to Eileen DeMings and Cat Reith-Lowery for providing us with a Valentine’s Party on Sunday, February 14, 2016, one of the coldest days of the year.

Special thanks to the team who have been working on special projects around the church. The team including Tamsin Lucey, Lynn Garland, Rose Reith and Eileen DeMings has been organizing the Resource Closet. Another team has been identifying all the doors and keys at Holy Trinity. Thank you to Tamsin Lucey, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland, Peg Nelson, and Nate Lowery for their diligent work on this project.

Easter is early this year so March is going to be another busy month. Anyone interested in planning a Seder meal for Maundy Thursday, please see me or Fr. Richard. I look forward to seeing where God will be moving us during Lent.

Please continue to pray for Fr. Richard, Nina, the vestry and lay leaders as we discern God’s call to move Holy Trinity forward in mission. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions. I am available by email at richfield121@charter.net or by cell phone 413-883-4491.

With God’s Grace and Blessings, Nancy Waugh

LENTEN



STUDY GROUP

ADULT/LENTEN STUDY PROGRAM

On February 3 we begin a Lenten Study program (that will extend into June!), with Bethlehem Lutheran Church, on the Old Testament. These will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at 7:00 PM. The location moves between HTEC, BLC, and homes of participants willing to host (hosting is not required to join the group). New participants are welcome as we set out on a fresh journey of discipleship, building our common understanding of the text and building a greater bond of fellowship in the Spirit.

Please see Fr. Richard for location and book information.

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Thank you for sharing your blessings with those accessing the St. John Paul Food Pantry. The food pantry is most appreciative of all donations. Please support this ministry in any way that you can – all donations are a blessing to those in need. On Sunday, March 6, 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. Food returned by Sunday, March 27, will be blessed before going to the pantry that week.

As we are blessed, may we be a blessing.

Thank you for your continued participation in the ministry.

“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




MARCH BIRTHDAYS

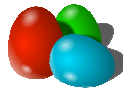
1–John Grant
2–Susan Grant
4–Ellen Anderstrom
7–Laura Gervais
9–Bridgette Bachand
9–Jack Burns
10–Benjamin Normandin
12–Abigail Bullard
13–Sof Kollios
31–Christopher Ballou

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!

PALM SUNDAY CROSSES & EASTER EGGS

 This year on Palm Sunday – March 20 - after the service, during hospitality hour, in the parish hall you can make Palm Crosses and fill plastic Easter Eggs. All materials and instructions for both activities provided. Make a Palm Cross for yourself, make extras to give to others – a wonderful way to share the Love of God – give homemade Palm Crosses to all your Family and Friends! Plastic Easter Eggs will be filled, ready for children to hand out on Easter Day! All children are invited to help with this project.

Tamsin Lucey 774 200 24279



ALTAR FLOWERS DURING LENT

Please remember that there are no flowers on the altar during Lent. If you would like to place a Vigil Light dedication, please complete the flower donation form on the table at the back of the church.



UNDERCROFT NEWS!



Dear Parishioners, we are getting ready to paint the undercroft! Following the installation of the nice new ceiling and repairs to loose plaster, the final piece of the undercroft “project” is to paint the woodwork and walls. The paint has been purchased, Hector, our sexton will “tape off” the woodwork and paint all the trim, i.e. the baseboard, window and door trim, etc.

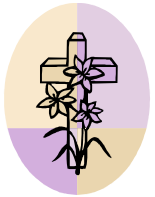
Parishioners are asked to help paint the walls. We hope to get it all done before Easter! Wall painting will take place on Saturday, March 12, and Saturday, March 19, starting at 10:00 am and finishing at 2:00 pm. You may arrive and leave when most convenient to you. Paint brushes, rollers, ladders and drop clothes provided, please bring gloves and favorite paint brushes if you like! Please see Tamsin Lucey after church or contact her (cell phone 774-200-4279 or email abritinusa@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Building and Grounds Committee

Palm Sunday – It's a Big Deal!



Palm Sunday remembers Jesus' joyous entrance into Jerusalem, His followers waving palm leaves and paving His way with a carpet of palms. We won't quite be doing that, but this year we plan to decorate with church with palms! There will be two vases of palms on the mantel by the cross and we hope to have at least a couple of “potted” palms lining the aisle. Extra-long palms have been ordered for the congregation to wave joyously as we walk into the sanctuary from the parish hall. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the “extra palms”, please place a donation in the offering plate or mail to the office with the notation, “Extra Palms”, before Sunday, March 13, 2016. For a specific donation to help off-set the cost of the vases on the mantel please see the Flower Sign-Up sheet in the back of the church, talk with Chris Bolte 508-765-9559 during her office hours, or talk with Tamsin Lucey 774-200-4279.



EASTER MEMORIALS

This Easter, 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 13**. The donations collected for these memorials are used to purchase the flowers that decorate the sanctuary on Easter Day.

Exact wording of memorial will be:

Easter gifts for flowers are given to the Glory of God...

_____ 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 person who is living, choose the following:

_____ in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of _____

(Name of person or blessing)

given by _____

[Your name(s) – please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, say something like “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 donation, to the church office or drop it in the offering plate by **Sunday, March 13**. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will off-set the cost of the flowers for decorating the church on Easter Day. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Church with the notation “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.

Do you know someone who would appreciate Easter flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so arrangements can be made to bring them flowers:

ALL FLOWER DEDICATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 13. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DONATION WITH THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

WINTER COAT CLOSET “THANK YOU”!

I just wanted to say thank you to all who donated coats and helped out with the Winter Coat Closet this year! We were able to reach about 320 people and gave out close to 400 warm coats in addition to quite a few scarves, mittens and boots! Special thanks to Holy Trinity Church for allowing us to use the space. Thanks also to the wonderful volunteers Sally, Bill, Marguerite, Lynn and many others- a truly ecumenical mission!

-Chris McTigue, Coordinator

CONFIRMATION AND BECOMING EPISOPALIAN GROUP

"Being Episcopalian" Youth and Adult confirmation preparation and refresher in the basic beliefs of the Church will meet on Monday, March 7 and 14 at 6:00 PM in Blakely Hall.



Lenten materials for individuals and packets for families are available on the table in the Narthex.



FLOWERING THE EASTER CROSS

If you have any artificial flowers that you would like to donate to flower the Easter Cross with, please bring them to church by Sunday, March 13.

Thank you!

Sunday Services inclement weather closure plan for Winter 2016

Every Sunday in March, 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.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS STORYWALK



Friday March 25

10:30 am-Gather and light snack in Parish Hall

10:45 am-Prepare to enter sanctuary

11:00 am-Begin Storywalk

After the Storywalk, we will gather back in the Parish Hall for reflections and a Good Friday themed snack.

ALL are welcome. This event is sponsored by Family Worship and is geared toward children and families, but we encourage anyone to attend for a meaningful and spiritual activity.

Questions or to volunteer to help, please contact Eileen DeMings, [617-429-1798](tel:617-429-1798) or eksullivan99@dpcv.org.

CHILDREACH SPONSOR CHILD FOR 2016

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 2016. The sponsorship is \$30.00 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.

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall
March 13 & 27

When families come together to worship
with kids in mind.



THE MISSION PLATE

Here we are in March and spring is right around the corner! It might still be snowy in some places, and mud season in others, but farmers and gardeners are getting ready. With Spring in mind and Easter coming up, I thought that the mission plate this month and for April could go towards some chicks, ducklings and goslings that Heifer International calls their Basket of Hope! Kids can get excited about this too, so talk about this in Family Worship and have the children of our parish contribute their coins to see if we can collect several basketfuls for families around the world that need them. The baskets will provide eggs for nutrition, fertilizer for their gardens, chicks to pass on to neighbors, and much added income for medicine, school supplies and many other needs.

What a great way to greet Spring, celebrate Easter, and help others. I pray that our baskets are full of hope and gratitude for all our blessings.

Love, Suzy Sharp, Green Valley, Arizona, [774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426)

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

Sunday, March 20 @ 9:30 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 24 @ 6:00 p.m.

Seder Supper and Holy Eucharist: The congregation will first join in a communal meal and then go into the church for the 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 25

A Children and Family Stations of the Cross Service @ 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist from the Reserve Sacrament @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 27: Easter: the Sunday of the Resurrection

9:30 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 24 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



GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

The Good Friday Offering will support the work of the Bishops, Priests and people of the Province of Jerusalem.

January Financial Update

Income side

- Overall income is over budget. This is due to receiving \$1,272.00 from last year's pledge, pre-paid pledges, and some unbudgeted income. It is too early in the year to comment more.

Expense Side

- The Church repair and maintenance line is over budget, mainly due to snow removal.
- The Church capital improvement line is over budget because of necessary electrical upgrades for fire code compliance.
- The usual reserves have been put aside for the bulk oil purchases and annual insurance bill.
- The utility bills will come in over budget going forward because of the YMCA. This expense was factored into the rent, but not into the budget, as this is a short term rental.
- The finances are in good shape.

Susan Howland, Treasurer.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton Street
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Office Phone: (508) 765-9559

E-mail: holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com

Web site: holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Office Hours:

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

Sundays in March—11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 2—6:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study Meal

Wednesday, March 2—7:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study @ HTEC

Saturday, March 5—Diocesan Parish Leadership Day, Springfield

Monday, March 7—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation/Becoming Episcopalian Group

Wednesday, March 9—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting and Book Study

Friday, March 12—10:00 a.m.—Painting the Undercroft

Sunday, March 13—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Monday, March 14—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation/Becoming Episcopalian Group

Wednesday, March 16—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King Meeting

Wednesday, March 16—6:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study Meal

Wednesday, March 16—7:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study—See Fr. Richard

Sunday, March 20—11:00 a.m.—Making Palm Crosses & Filling Easter Eggs

Thursday, March 24—6:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

Thursday, March 24—9:00 p.m.—Beginning of the Overnight Prayer Vigil

Friday, March 25—12:00 a.m.—Overnight Prayer Vigil continues

Friday, March 25—10:30 a.m.—Children & Family Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 25—7:30 p.m.—Good Friday Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 27—6:00 a.m.—Sunrise Service at OSV

Sunday, March 27—9:30 a.m.—Easter Service with Family Worship