



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

May 2016

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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!

I could not be more delighted!!! Thank you, good people of Holy Trinity!!!

The Vestry and members of the parish have extended an invitation to me, to be named Rector for Holy Trinity. I am humbled, to be entrusted with the care and keeping of our worship and our people; but so delighted! I am often in awe of the innate talents and wisdom of those who share in the "decision making" processes of the parish, that I count myself deeply fortunate to be surrounded by such depth and understanding. We have a congregation whose Spirit is lifted in prayer and worship, and especially in songs of praise, which inspires my heart. We have more musicians and singers than the Boston Pops; and ours are more talented, too!! Our parish is full of gifted teachers who nurture the young. The many who serve, serve with zeal, dedication, and distinction. Our leadership grasps deeply the imperative of the Gospel, that the Good News be shared and given away, and invites neighborhood folks to come and find a Spiritual home. All good gifts, by the power of the Spirit are present for the mission of the Church, and all are fueled by the Love whose origin remains eternal.

It reminds me, and I pledge to remember, that I remain but a servant in the house of God. We are servants, all of us. There is only one Lord and Master. There is only ONE ministry - that of Jesus Christ. This is the same one in which we all share - as we attempt to empower each other to offer the very best of ourselves for the Lord's sake. God Bless us all richly!!!! Come, Holy Spirit!

I remain,

Your friend in Christ,

(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore

THANKSGIVINGS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

The Vestry had a very productive Retreat on April 2, 2016. We reviewed the Marks of a Healthy Congregation that the Vestry developed at last year's Vestry Retreat. We also reviewed the Bishop's Convention address October 2015. All this was in preparation for the Bishop's visit June 5, 2016. The Bishop meets with the Vestry following the service for about an hour and a half. The majority of the retreat was discussing a new idea coming from the diocese to start a Hispanic ministry and what that might look like. Fr. Richard has a passion for developing a Hispanic ministry whatever form this might take. He reminded us that this was part of our Parish Profile that attracted him to HTEC. The Vestry would like to form a steering team to explore the feasibility. The Rev. Tom Callard, the diocesan Hispanic minister, and his team will be at our next Vestry meeting on May 11, 2016. If you would like to be a member of this steering team, please see myself or Fr. Richard.

The Vestry voted unanimously to call Fr. Richard as our Rector at the April Vestry meeting. There is one more step in the process to this call. The Vestry will now write to the Bishop asking for his blessing on the change from Priest-in-Charge to Rector. Fr. Richard will continue to be a part-time rector.

HTEC will be open on Saturday, May 14, 2016 for the Southbridge Bi-centennial Parade. HTEC will be represented in the parade by the Family Worship Team. The route of the parade has changed and will not be going by HTEC. The church will be open for handicap access to the bathroom and be a presence for the foot traffic that is anticipated. There will be a festival at McMahon Field and we would like to have presence there also. Then on Sunday, May 15, 2016 there will be a bicycle safety day and the blessing of the bicycles at Southbridge Commons—another opportunity to be a presence in our neighborhood. Please consider giving of your time to help with all the opportunities God is giving us to be the hand and feet of Jesus in our community.

Nancy Waugh

Southbridge Bicentennial May 14 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Open House

On Saturday May 14, The Southbridge Bicentennial Parade, we will open our doors to the public between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm! There will be restricted vehicle access to Hamilton Street for the parade - people will be walking - they will be able to use our handicap-accessible bathroom, have a tour of the sanctuary and enjoy some light refreshments. If you are able to help in any way please contact Susan Howland, Tamsin Lucey, or Nancy Waugh.



Loaves and Fishes Ministry

As the months get warmer – visitors to the Food Pantry do not cease – the need is still as great. Thank you for your continued participation in the Loaves and Fishes ministry by placing donations of food in the Food Pantry basket. Each and every donation is a blessing to those in need. On Sunday, May 1, 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, May 29 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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

4–Aliana Bousquet
12–Gordon Adams
12–Anne Bouvier-Monroe
15–Sally Baum
28–Mary Hicks

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!

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, May 16, at 6:00 PM in Blakely Hall.

Southbridge Festival May 14

Kids Crafts for Christ

Saturday May 14, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm will find Holy Trinity Episcopal Church aka US at the Southbridge Festival - the McMahon Field at the corner of Cole Ave and Dresser Hill. We will have the Kids Crafts for Christ activities set up for children, free of charge. This is a wonderful opportunity for US to share our faith and love for Jesus with the community. We do not talk shop! That's not our style! We just help children with Christian themed crafts and activities. If you would like to join in the fun, can help with set up (9:00 to 10:30 am), or break down (5:00 to 6:00 pm) or any time in between please contact Tamsin Lucey 774 200 4279.

March and 1st Quarter 2016 Financial Report

On the income side

- Pledges are behind \$4,167 over budget after correcting for pre-paid pledges.
- The fundraising line is under budget, but no major fundraisers have happened.
- The rental budget will be off for the foreseeable future. The last AA meeting stopped meeting and we are not renting the Undercroft or Parish Hall until a new rental agreement is developed and combined with a well thought out rental plan. With the YMCA long term rental we have enough logistics to take care of for the time being. The reason the line shows a negative \$150 is we had a January rental that pre-paid in 2015 and cancelled. So the \$200 was refunded leaving a net of \$150.
- 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 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 drew from the reserve fund to keep the checking balance at \$10,500.
- We have an outstanding bill for minor organ repair.

There is a finance committee meeting scheduled for April 24th.

All the 2015 financial records were passed to the audit committee on March 6th.

The oil tank was filled and we got a price of \$1,45/gallon. Some of the bill was paid with the remaining 800 of credit, so the credit is closed out.

Susan Howland, Treasurer



HTEC APRON ORDER FORM

- Bib with adjustable straps
- One size fits all
- 2 patch pockets
- Color: Stone
- Logo in blue and red

***ORDER DEADLINE IS MAY 22.**

(They will be received in time for the Bishop's visit on June 6.)

Quantity	Price	Total	Cash/Check
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_____	\$12.00/ea	_____	_____
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Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

ORDERS ONLY ACCEPTED WITH PAYMENT.

(Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and note "Apron" in the memo.)

Please note:

- These aprons are for you to keep!
- No aprons available for general use.

Office Use

☐ Money Received

☐ Apron Received

Notes: _____

Aprons - Holy Trinity Episcopal Church - has Aprons!

Yes you read correctly we have arranged for the new logo to be printed on APRONS!

These aprons can be worn at church for; events, pot lucks, dinners, cookout's, VBS, hospitality hour, etc. They can be worn outside of church at; Rice-O-Rama, Southbridge Bicentennial Parade, Southbridge Festival, Cops-n-Kids, church picnics, at the community garden, etc. Even in your own homes and at cookouts, etc. You can give them as gifts, or just because, mail them to friends and family! Buy your own and you will be all set to go.

Aprons available by pre-ordering only. The order form is in this issue of Tidings, at the church, and our website. If you have any questions please contact Tamsin Lucey 774-200-4279.

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

May 8 & 22

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



CHILDREACH SPONSOR CHILD FOR 2016

There are 3 months left to help support Nicholas Onyango Okondo. Please sponsor Nicholas for a month with a donation of \$30.00. Note "Sponsor Child" on your check. Thank you!

THE MISSION PLATE

Mother's Day is just around the corner, and I have been thinking what would be appropriate to collect donations for the mission plate. Talking this over with Barbara Kalber, she told me about a Diaper Drive in our Diocese. It sounded like a great idea, and one that we could all get behind for May and Mother's Day. At this point I am not sure to which organization our donations will go, but I will keep you informed!

Dave and I returned from Arizona 4/19, had no water for a couple of days but now have running water! Which we all take for granted! So it is good to be back, and it will be especially good to be with all of you worshipping together at HTEC.

Suzy Sharp [774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426)



Kids Crafts for Christ

May 15 Southbridge Bicycle Fair and Skills Clinic

Kids Crafts for Christ will be out and about on Sunday May 15, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Southbridge Bicycle Fair and Skills Clinic - Charlton St. Recreation Ground, next to Charlton St. School. We will stay for the Blessing of Bicycles and anything else with wheels that follows the fair and 3:00 pm! We will have the Kids Crafts for Christ activities set up for children, free of charge. This is a wonderful opportunity for US to share our faith and love for Jesus with the community. We do not talk shop! That's not our style! We just help children with Christian themed crafts and activities. FYI Fr. Richard will be swinging incense at the Blessing of the Bicycles! If you would like to join in the fun, can help with set up (12:00 to 1:30 pm), or break down (3:30 to 4:30 pm) or any time in between please contact

Tamsin Lucey 774 200 4279.



HTEC LAWN MOWING

Spring is here and soon the grass will grow. We have a new mower so there should be no mechanical issues. All we need now is volunteers to cut the grass weekly. If you are called to this ministry, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church. Thank you.

SPECIAL MAY DAYS!

Pentecost is on Sunday, May 15.

Please wear RED to Church to celebrate!



Sunday, May 22, is Trinity Sunday.
Please join us during coffee hour after service for a celebration cake!



Community Garden God Moments - The Holy Spirit knocks loudly!

Over the last couple of years I have talked with some people about a community garden, either at the church or in the neighborhood. Karen Bodamer from Bethlehem Lutheran Church contacted me recently to see if HTEC had any interest in joining with them in a Community Garden project in Southbridge... We have talked - we are still talking - making plans - not quite in place yet, but getting there fast. Early in June, (possibly June 4) we will definitely be offering the community the opportunity to fill containers with potting soil and plant vegetables (seeds and plants). These containers may go home with the neighbors, you, stay at HTEC or go to the Community Garden on Cross St. We will also be networking with our neighbors on Cross



St, Union St and Oliver St to plant vegetables, pumpkins and water melon at the Community Gardens on Cross St. and possibly Charlton St as well! The congregation at HTEC will have the opportunity to participate in each and all of these activities. 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 Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

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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 May—11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Monday, May 4—7:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study

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

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

Saturday, May 14—10:00 a.m.—Southbridge Bicentennial Celebration

Sunday, May 15—3:00 p.m.—Blessing of the Bicycles—Charlton Street
Recreation Area

Monday, May 16—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation/Becoming Episcopalian
Group

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

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

Sunday, May 22—2:00 p.m.—Next Steps Kick-Off—BLC