



# 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!!

This season speaks to us of deep hope and abiding celebration. The changing colors of the trees remind us that all living things are subject to both decay and corruption; but also to a dazzling new life of color, depth and nuance. Dare I say, "Glory!" This season is a time to celebrate the fulfilled promises of God the Creator. We know 'God provides' as we tend another harvest, by God's Grace.

Abundance makes us want to return to God as we are able, in proportion to how we have been blessed – both in worldly wealth and in spiritual companionship – a sign of our gratitude to God for nurture received. Please pray, and thoughtfully consider, your gift for this year's Stewardship ingathering. The journey over the next few weeks may leave you far richer and deeply blessed than you can imagine; if but just to start with the One, the Giver, the author of life. God sidles up to us in the smiles of family and friends, in kindnesses received and given. Let God warm you as you prayerfully consider the gifts from God that precede and follow us.

*Faithfully yours in Christ,  
The Reverend Richard S. Signore*

## Senior Warden Speaking

November is the time of year we “Give Thanks” – “Thanksgiving” is part of the American Way of Life – the origin of Thanksgiving in part defines who Americans are. “Giving Thanks” is a Christian thing – it in part defines who Christians are – so let us Give Thanks together on November 22<sup>nd</sup> for a service celebrating of our Stewardship of all Gods Good Gifts around us.

This time last year we were finishing off the last building project on our 2012 to-do list. This November I can report that we are completing a rather major unforeseen project – that of the Undercroft ceiling, one that presented itself to us in what some might call a God Moment when the plumber, looking for some pipes, discovered the reason why the ceiling tiles were dipping down. Details can be found elsewhere in this edition of Tidings. Please take time: to read the article; thank Susan Howland for coordinating the effort to address and effect the demolition and repairs; thank Hector Chapa, the sexton, and all those that helped clean up afterwards, and lastly visit the undercroft to marvel at the new ceiling.

Please be reminded that, just as November is the close of the church year, it is the start of new beginnings. The vestry and Fr. Richard are looking to the New Year when new members join the vestry to serve as lay leaders, who through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit guide us forward making decisions on behalf of the congregation. Please do not be surprised or alarmed if Fr. Richard or I engage you in conversation about joining us for the November 9 vestry meeting! We do so in the belief that you have gifts to share and much to offer. We pray that you are open to listen to the Holy Spirit, be guided by your heart, and consider if you are being called to serve as a vestry member.

We continue to be a happening Church! Please see The Sunday Service Bulletin and this issue of Tidings for details of how you can be engaged in what is happening at HTEC. Join us Oct 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:15 pm to distribute hot cocoa and apple crisp to Trick or Treaters and just 4 weeks later – receive advent materials and attend a workshop on Advent Traditions and Wreath Making.

With Thanksgiving on your mind and heart, please continue to pray for Fr. Richard, Nina, the vestry and lay leaders as we continually move forward, guided by the Holy Spirit, towards God’s Promised and Preferred Future for Holy Trinity Church as the Hands & Feet of Jesus on Hamilton St. Southbridge.

If you have comments, concerns or questions, please know that I am always available via email [abritinusa@gmail.com](mailto:abritinusa@gmail.com) or cell phone 774 200 4279.

Looking forward with gratitude and blessings....

Tamsin Lucey

## 6' BANQUET TABLES FOR SALE

**HTEC is selling the old banquet tables (17). Parishioners are welcome to purchase one (or several). They are \$15.00 each. Please see Tamsin Lucey if you are interested. Checks payable to Holy Trinity with “Banquet tables” in the memo.**

## CENTER OF HOPE

The Center of Hope strives to provide meaningful "work" opportunities for their clients. Ken LaHue, the work experience director met recently with Fr. Richard Signore and Tamsin Lucey to discuss how they might provide a service to HTEC! As a result of this meeting the Center of Hope will be volunteering their time to tidy the books in the pews the children's activities in the Narthex and on the Parish Hall stage. They will be at the church 1 day every week at their convenience, if you happen to be see them please thank them for there service.

## CONFIRMATION AND BECOMING EPISOPALIAN GROUP

Young adults, their parents and anyone, irrespective of age, with questions about the Episcopal faith — this group if for you! This is your opportunity to ask questions! The group will meet just twice, before the end of the year: Wednesday November 8 and December 9.

*The group starts promptly at 6pm and concludes at 7pm.*

## The End of the Burner Booster Era

Two years ago we entered into an agreement with Tasse Fuel to install a "Burner Booster", which they guaranteed would save us 15% on our heating bill, along with a cleaner, environmentally friendly, burn. This was cutting edge technology, and we believe we did save the 15% over the two years, despite some "technical difficulties". We also applied for and received a congregational development grant of \$3,000 to help offset the cost of the equipment.

Unfortunately, the Burner Booster Company went out of business because the inventor became ill. The equipment has been removed and Tasse honored our contract. We invested \$9,000, saved approximately \$3,000 in oil and we have a \$4,500 credit at Tasse to be used for oil or repairs. We contacted the diocese about returning the grant money and they said we do not need to return the money.

As compensation for the broken contract the big steam boiler has a brand new burner, as the old one was converted and could not be reversed; the small boiler had its previous burner restored and both boilers have been cleaned at no cost to us.

This was an adventure into improving energy stewardship; we will continue to be good stewards of our heating system and conserve fuel when possible by programming thermostats.

Thanks as always for your support!

*Susan Howland, overseer of the Burner Booster project.*

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir rehearsal are on Sunday morning at 8:45 to go over the hymns and any anthems that we are singing on Sunday morning. Starting October 18th, we will be having rehearsal after church between 11 and 11:15 in the Sanctuary. The rehearsal should be about 30 minutes at this time. As we get closer to the holidays, we might lengthen the rehearsal to 45 minutes.

Please prayerfully consider joining our choir and sing to the glory of God. It is a great time for spiritual fulfillment and a relaxing, social time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to me.

*God Bless,  
Anne Bouvier-Monroe  
Organist*

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

**November 8 & 22**

When families come together to worship with kids in mind.

*You're  
Invited!*

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO THE  
STEWARDSHIP INGATHERING BRUNCH  
**NOVEMBER 22**  
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

## **Stewardship Ingathering and Harvest Service**

*Sunday November 22nd 9:30 am*

As life brings us back around each year, we gather to celebrate the In Gathering of Pledge Cards and Harvest Service, this year on Christ the King Sunday - the last day of the liturgical year when we celebrate the Big Harvest of God at the end of time, when all is brought into His Kingdom. We will be celebrating all of our great harvest and bring them to the Lord with great joy, openness of heart, and splendor! Please plan to join us for this special service, during which pledge cards will be collected in the offering and placed on the Altar.

{Pledge cards will be mailed to households separately& are available on the Narthex table.}

Everyone is invited to enjoy brunch in the parish hall after the service.

### **Gathering of the Great Bounties for the Harvest**

We will be adorning the Sanctuary with Fall Harvest Bounties on Saturday, November 7 @ 3:30pm. Come One, Come All and bring a little touch of fall with you to help decorate. We are looking for contributions of pumpkins, gourds, squash, corn stalks, bales of straw, mums, kale, colored leaves, anything that reminds you of the Great Harvest ! Contributions may be dropped off on Sunday, November 1, or Tuesday or Thursday during office hours, 9-Noon., or by mutual arrangement with Bart Krug or Tamsin Lucey.



### **BIG THANKS TO OUR LAWN CARE GUYS!!!!**

If you have walked up to church this summer and said, "WOW, the church yard looks great!", you can thank our LAWN CARE GUYS! The LAWN CARE GUYS of HTC have been working hard this summer to keep the lawn cut and fed! We offer a great "pat on the back" to each of these guys for doing a great job, and a job now done for the season! Thanks to each of you from all of us at HTC!



The Lawn Care Guys: Jerry Helbig, Josh Spooner, Bill Nelson, John Grant, Bill Pieczynski, Paul Aloia, Ben Normandin, and Bart Krug.

I am stepping down from the organizational portion and would like to thank Bill Nelson for taking over that piece.

*~Bart Krug*

### **HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL**

## **CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE**

**SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13, 2015**

following the 9:30 a.m. service

Pick that favorite holiday Christmas cookie recipe for this delicious event!  
Not a baker? You can be the buyer!

Drop off cookies Sunday morning 12/13 before the 9:30 a.m. service or by other arrangement. PLEASE make sure that there is a recipe card attached to the cookies you have baked!

Looking for a few good souls to help me sell that morning!  
Email or call with questions or would like to volunteer that a.m.

Questions? Call or email Bobbie Helbig  
508-347-9374 or [bjvsh@yahoo.com](mailto:bjvsh@yahoo.com).



## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

2—Mary Demers  
3—Victor Hill  
4—Katelyn Anderstrom  
6—Barbara Kalber  
8 - Paige Spooner  
8—Carolyn Anderstrom  
17—Hope Wilson  
23—Lana Pieczynski  
23 - Josh Spooner  
25 - Eileen DeMings

*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!*



**Reserve your Fall Pies!!**  
Order Forms are in the Narthex or place your order via the church office or Tamsin Lucey as soon as possible!



Fr. Richard invites all children of any age to wear their Halloween costumes to church on Sunday, November 1 for **All Saint's Sunday.**

## **Collecting Change for Change the Babies**

### **Helping the Mampong Children and Babies home in Kumasi Ghana**

The water bottle, located on Sunday mornings on the Narthex Table, has some change in it! Please continue to bring in your loose change or empty your pockets at church! The money collected goes directly to help support the mission - pays for electric, food and medicines - of the Mampong Children's and Babies Home in Kumasi Ghana.



The **Winter Coat Closet** will open on Saturday, November 7. It will be open on Saturdays from 9am-11am in the Undercroft. Volunteers are needed to help run the Coat Closet on Saturdays. If you are interested, please contact Chris

McTigue via email at [cmct@verizon.net](mailto:cmct@verizon.net). Donations of gently used and cleaned coats are always accepted and in need.

## **Loaves and Fishes Ministry**

Thank you for bringing in your donation of food, for the food pantry in October. On Nov 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 Nov 28 will be blessed before going to the pantry that week. FYI, the food pantries expect to be inundated with requests for food this Thanksgiving and Christmas. Two local agencies that have previously supplied Thanksgiving Turkeys and other traditional food are UNABLE to do so this year. 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".*



*With Love, Peace and Joy,  
Tamsin Lucey*



### FALL PIES

Pie time is here! Thank you to all who have taken some labels from our supply board. There are still labels to be taken—it isn't too late! **Please return all of the supplies to HTEC on November 1.** Baking will take place on Sunday, November 8 and 15. If you are interested in helping with baking, please contact Cat Reith-Lowery, Joe DiSalvatore, or Tamsin Lucey.

This year we are offering the standard fare of Pecan, Pumpkin, Apple and Dutch Apple Pies. We are excited to announce that we have added Meat Pies! They will be fully cooked and frozen. Cooking instructions will accompany each pie purchased.

Please ask your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors if they would like to order pies! Order forms are included in your bulletin and are located on the Narthex table.



*Thank you!*  
*Cat Reith-Lowery, Joe DiSalvatore, and Tamsin Lucey*

### **CHORAL PREMIERE CONCERT FESTIVAL OF GIVING TREES**

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church has been invited again to participate in the Festival of Giving Trees Choral Premiere Concert with String Ensemble on Thursday, December 3, at Notre Dame Church.

The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

7pm on Tuesday, 11/3 @ St. John Paul II Parish Center  
7pm on Tuesday, 11/10 @ St. John Paul II Parish Center  
7pm on Tuesday, 11/17 @ Notre Dame Church  
7pm on Tuesday, 11/24 @ Notre Dame Church  
7pm on Tuesday, 12/1 @ Notre Dame Church



### **SHARE ADVENT TRADITIONS & MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH**

All materials supplied.

Come either

**Sunday, November 29 @ 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall**

OR

**Monday, November 30, drop in between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

*Simple supper of soup will be available*



### **USHERING?**

Have you ever wondered what ushers do? Interested in ushering? Might you be interested in knowing more about ushering? Mick Kalber and Fr. Richard are scheduling a meeting for all ushers. Please see them if you are interested in learning more about this ministry.

Many flyers have been sent to HTEC concerning upcoming Holiday Fairs and Community Meals. Please see the Community News and Events Board for information.

## Undercroft Ceiling Repair

As we age, our bodies need more care, sometimes major repairs, and, at other times, just a bit of tuning. The same is true with our building. In fact, we will be commemorating the church building's sesquicentennial in 2019. That's 150 years; can you imagine?

For various reasons, Holy Trinity Church is a special place to all of us, as it has been for many people over the years. Right now it needs some serious TLC. We have taken on an extensive ceiling repair in the undercroft, keeping in mind our mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ on Hamilton Street.

Cole Contracting has removed and disposed of all layers of the plaster ceiling and the drop ceiling grid and tiles. Electrical wiring, lighting, and fire detection issues have been resolved, and new ceiling grid and tiles have been installed.

The estimated cost of \$18,450 will draw down to zero all of our available reserve funds, but the vestry voted to go forward with the project because our life and purpose is centered in this community of Southbridge.

As our congregation collectively prepares to celebrate the church building's 150 years, we are also preparing and repairing our building so that our children, grandchildren and generations to follow can experience the specialness of Holy Trinity Church. We will continue to honor our budget while working to restore all reserve funds.

Several people have asked what they can do to help. If you would like to help replenish our building fund, please talk with Susan Howland or any vestry member.

## THE MISSION PLATE

I love this time of year, the beautiful fall foliage, the crisp and chilly mornings, the scent of wood fires, the anticipation of Thanksgiving, Advent, and then the celebration of the birth of Jesus. A wonderful time of family, friends, and gatherings around tables laden with the fruits of the harvest.

For some this is a time of plenty - of food, friends, gifts, and celebration. But for others it is a time of anxiety, of want, and worry. A mother wonders how she will have enough for a thanksgiving meal and presents for her children to put under a tree she cannot afford.

So, in thanks for all the gifts given to us by God, the mission plate offerings will go to a family or person less fortunate to let them know that they are thought of, cared for and, above all, loved by God. As we open our hearts to this person or family, we will be blessed in return. Please place your offerings in the mission plate during the six Sundays from November 1 through December 6th. This allows time to deliver the donation to the recipient for the Christmas holiday. We can be the "Secret Santa", the anonymous messengers of hope, peace, and goodwill.

Thanks be to God!

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



## **Financial Update: end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2015.**

### **On the income side:**

Pledges are down \$2,500 over budget after correcting for per-paid pledges.  
Rental and fundraising are somewhat over budget.  
All other lines are within expected limits.

### **On the expense side**

Many lines are under budget, but can most likely be accommodated over the next 3 months until the end of this fiscal year.

### **Other financial comments**

**Equipment:** money was set aside in an equipment fund last year and this year. A lawn mower was purchased for \$400; it is a very sturdy, self propelled mower that should give us years of use for our "all volunteer" team of lawn care specialists!!! We are researching a floor polisher that Hector suggested. A new hot water heater was installed because the old one was leaking; Gordon Plumbing traced down the water lines and all is in order.

**Building Inspection Certificates:** the emergency lighting was completed to obtain our new building inspection certificates, which have been issued.

**Heat:** The Burner Boosters were removed. (See separate article in this Tidings.) The Boilers have been restored to their original condition. There is a new burner on the large boiler and a rebuilt burner on the small boiler. The heat was tested and is working. There are now 7,000 gallons of oil in the tank. We still have a credit with Tasse of \$3,546.91. We will need to change the classroom wing thermostats to programmable and track down the heating valve issues in that space.

**YMCA Lease:** the executive and finance committees worked on a lease agreement with the YMCA which is acceptable to all. The YMCA is waiting on state site inspections before the lease agreement can be finalized.

**Undercroft Ceiling Restoration:** the undercroft ceiling restoration is well underway. The drop ceiling and two layers of old ceiling plaster have been removed along with about 1/3 of the electrical wiring that was old and useless. Seven fire protection heat sensors were replaced and rewired, and a new drop ceiling will be installed. Our estimate to date is \$18,450. At an emergency vestry meeting we unanimously agreed that the available reserve funds should be put into the Building Fund to start to pay for the undercroft ceiling bill. (See financial reports posted here: <http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org/holy-trinity-news-2/churchnewsletter/>, and attached to emailed Tidings.)

*Blessings,  
Susan Howland, treasurer*

## **SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE BELL RINGERS**



That time of year is nearly upon us. Tamsin Lucey has accepted the challenge to coordinate the Red Kettle Bell Ringers for the Sturbridge/Southbridge area. This is your opportunity to volunteer to "Ring the Bell" and help an organization dedicated to "Doing the Most Good". Red Kettles will be located in both towns starting Nov. 23 through Dec 24.. Please contact

Tamsin if you would like to know more about volunteering to "Ring the Bell". This is an ideal opportunity for those looking for community service hours. Start new Family Traditions, Caroling and playing of instruments are welcomed. The proceeds collected in this area stay in this area. Please contact

Tamsin Lucey at [774 200 4279](tel:7742004279) or [RedKettleSbridge@gmail.com](mailto:RedKettleSbridge@gmail.com).



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
446 Hamilton Street  
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### 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

Tidings of Holy Trinity-November 2015

### Save These Dates

#### **Holy Trinity Church**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesday, November 3—7:00 p.m.—Festival of Giving Trees Choir Practice @  
St. John Paul II Parish Center

Wednesday, November 4—7:00 p.m.—Bible and Wine: A Bible Book Club—  
HTEC

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

Sunday, November 8—11:00 a.m.—Pie Baking

Sunday, November 8—11:45 a.m.—Bible Study

Monday, November 9—7:00 p.m.—Vestry meeting

Tuesday, November 10—7:00 p.m.—Festival of Giving Trees Choir Practice  
@ St. John Paul II Parish Center

Wednesday, November 11—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation Class/Being  
Episcopalian

Sunday, November 15—11:00 a.m.—Pie Baking

Tuesday, November 17—7:00 p.m.— Festival of Giving Trees Choir Practice  
@ Notre Dame Church

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

Wednesday, November 18—7:00 p.m.—Bible and Wine: A Bible Book Study

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

Sunday, November 22—11:00 a.m.—Stewardship Brunch

Tuesday, November 24—7:00 p.m.—Festival of Giving Trees Choir Practice  
@ Notre Dame Church

Sunday, November 29—11:00 a.m.—Advent Wreath Making

Monday, November 30—5:00 p.m.—Advent Wreath Making w/ Simple  
Supper of Soup