



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

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Rector:	The Reverend Mary Gustafson Home: (508) 765-4973
Deacon: (Retired)	The Reverend Mary K. Hicks Home: (508) 434-2701
Secretary:	Chris Bolte Office: (508) 765-9559 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. E-mail: holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com Web site: holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Organist/Choirmaster:	Ray Gustafson :Home: (508) 765-4973
Sexton:	Kenneth Bisson
Senior Warden:	Lana Pieczynski Home: (508) 347-7693
Junior Warden:	Nancy Waugh Home: (413)245-3307

TIDINGS FROM THE RECTOR

As a keyboard musician myself, I was very sorry to hear about Dorothy Frisch's serious bicycle accident August 11th followed by a surgery, August 20th to correctly set bones in her right hand. Our prayers are with her for a full recovery. Because of her unfortunate accident, the 'opportunity' arose for me to bring my musical gifts (playing the organ) out of moth balls. Dorothy had been scheduled to play for the worship service August 19th in Ray's absence to the Academy for Spiritual formation (Session #3).

Practicing the organ daily the week of August 12th was like 'coming home' for me. Ray had pre-selected the hymns, but my first challenge was to locate at home my own favorite prelude and postlude music (Bach's Liturgical Year). I started learning that music back when I first 'switched' from piano to organ, probably when I was in ninth grade.

I've clocked hundreds, even thousands of hours practicing organ in church worship spaces. It was my first, non-verbal connection with my Loving Creator. During this time of transition, coming back again with that unique 'God connection' was like coming full circle. It was wonderful.

To my surprise, for the first hymn, Ray had selected "When Morning Gilds the Skies." That was one of my mother's favorite hymns. She had chosen it for her funeral (September '08) at which Ray served as organist (Christ Church, North Conway, NH).

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.

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One of the reasons Ray and I had accepted the call to Holy Trinity Church in April, 2004 was to be closer to my parents who were both in their 80s. That hymn was like a benediction from my mom – sending us back to the Midwest (St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN) where our daughter Mim, husband James, granddaughter Ava, our son Jon and Ray's brother Carl, wife and family live. It will be quite the homecoming for us in retirement.

I'm sure many more gifts from God will be revealed to Ray and I in the time before we leave October 14th. We are both so grateful.

~Pastor Mary

DEACON'S CORNER

There's only one appropriate topic for September 2012, the Gustafsons' retirement. We have a lot of good memories to look back over.

When they arrived, they brought a family for us to care about and love. Early on, the boys, Jon and Andrew, lived in the rectory. Over the years we met the girls, Emily and Mim, when they visited and eventually their husbands and now we have a grandchild to love. All of them shared their musical gifts with us. They were famous for their Carole sings with the elderly.

I will always cherish Mary's gracious invitation for visitors to come for communion. She would demonstrate various ways to take communion and always end by saying, "Don't worry. We'll coach you through it." I admired Mary for the hours she spent with parishioners as they were dying. She was a comfort to their families and a help as they planned their funerals. She took part in the ecumenical activities in our area and the people at Overlook were a special concern. She took wonderful care of her father while he was there.

One of Ray's gifts was to take whatever he had to work with and turn out something special. He could adapt music to the number of voices available. Early on, when I went to the nursing home, he came with me and played the piano organ.

We love them and will miss them. They will always be in our hearts.

As we begin to think about new beginnings, here is a quote I leave you with, "Ungenerous giving dwarfs the soul." Giving is not primarily about money, it's more so about caring for one another, praying for one another, and calling on those in need. These are things we are already good at. We just need to do them even more intentionally.

Blessings, Mary Hicks, your retired Deacon

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

Thank you for continuing to bring in food for the "Meals in a Bag" ministry. The end of July - beginning of August this year - was a very busy time and Tamsin did not get her act together to coordinate making up the meals in a bag until August 21st! Each month, we come together with a "loaf or fish" and collectively we provide meals for families in need. This ministry only exists because of the support from parishioners. We now have the new food labels up on the board at the back of the church.

Please take a label or two from the board and bring the food to church for the 4th Sunday, September 23rd.

With Love, Peace and Joy, in our hearts and Service & Ministry on our minds. Pat Bair, Marlene Duke, JoAnne Markey, Josh Spooner and Tamsin Lucey.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our second consecutive VBS has come to a close. We are thrilled to say we served 23 children, many of whom experienced church for the very first time with us! We laughed, we sang, we ate, we played, we raised money, we praised God and we trusted God, no matter what!

The VBS team is grateful to all the folks who spent the week with us, all those who worked "behind the scenes", all who donated, shopped, gathered and prayed for us. We are thankful to our Lord who brought us together in prayer every morning and lit up the faces of the children each day. We're already thinking of next year, a sign that we're headed in the right direction with this ministry.

A very special thank you goes to Mrs. Tamsin Lucey for her dedication, energy and faith. We are very blessed indeed!

*Blessings,
Eileen DeMings*

HELP SUPPORT SOUTHBRIDGE SCHOOLS

Save those Box Tops! School is back in session. Help support the Southbridge Schools by turning in your box tops.

West Street School is in need of the following items: Cool Whip container (sans lid), aluminum pie plates, & regular-size yogurt containers. Thank you for participating.

Coming up in October: "The Wish List" for the Arts.

*God Bless & Thank You
JoAnne Markey*

GATHERING ON HAMILTON STREET

The nights are drawing in and soup weather is approaching. Tuesday, September 4th and Tuesday, September 18th, the church doors will be open at 4:00 p.m. and soup will be ready at 5:00 p.m. As a parish, we have much to talk about. Please plan on coming to share soup, conversation, and community with your neighbors. We will only be making soup on Tuesday, September 18th. If you like to prepare vegetables and enjoy conversation, please join us in the kitchen at 4:00 p.m. You don't need a special invite to come and join us, just come and enjoy some hot food, conversation, and fellowship.

~Tamsin Lucey

Family Church to start September 23, 2012

Every other Sunday starting Sunday September 23, 2012, families will meet in Blakely hall during the time the rest of the congregation participates in Liturgy of the Word. The families will have their own worship that will include songs, a reading of the Gospel, perhaps acted out, and then a craft or a game that extends the learning from that week. The families will then be received back into the sanctuary to participate in the Eucharist with the entire congregation. Family Worship will also be offered at our Gathering on Hamilton Street Tuesday nights to give another time for families to be together. Contact Eileen DeMings at eksullivan99@dpcv.org or Lana Pieczynski at lholland@rocketmail.com for more information.

HOLY EUCHARIST AT OVERLOOK



Pastor Mary and Ray will be offering the Holy Eucharist in the chapel at the Overlook Communities on **Friday, September 14th**, at 9:30 a.m. Please plan to join us for joy-filled worship!

HEALING PRAYER GROUP

The next Healing Prayer Group meeting will take place on **Saturday, September 8th, at 2:00 p.m.** at Deacon Mary Hicks' Home.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

13—Barbara Galli
17—Kathryn Lucey
22—Betty Hammond
23—Dan L. Macumber
27—Frances Thompson
27 - Noni Linton
28—Bobbie Helbig

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

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Did you know that there is an on-going Inquirers' Class that meets monthly after Sunday 10:15 a.m. worship and you are invited? Our next monthly class session will be held **Sunday, September 16th**, around noon. We are using material from books titled Your Faith Your Life and Glorious Companions. Pastor Mary leads this class.

Holy Trinity Church Financial Figures

JULY 2012

Total Monthly Receipts: \$15,269.86
Total Monthly Income Required for Budget: \$13,931.72
Total Monthly Expenditures : \$11,590.40

YEAR TO DATE

JANUARY 1 THROUGH AUGUST 23, 2012

Total Year-to-date Receipts: \$93,437.24
Total Year-to-Date Income Required for Budget: \$107,858.50
Total Year-to-Date Expenditures: \$87,404.28

A MOMENT WITH MISSIONS

We again extend a note of great appreciation to the congregation for their support of our most recent project which was to send \$540 for Bibles for use in a new Baptist Church in northern Haiti through the Coastal Haiti Mission. This will enable Pastor Coty of L'Eglise Baptiste, Source de la Nouvelle Vie (The Source of New Life Baptist Church) in Cahess to purchase 30 Bibles in Creole (the common language which is a mixture of French and African) for \$10 each and 40 in French (considered more appropriate for some occasions) for \$6 each. Those remembered by special gifts are as follows:

IN HONOR:

- Jason and Theresa Arcouette in celebration of their marriage on June 22, 2012, 5 Creole Bibles.

IN MEMORY OF:

- Robert Dannies, Pastor Mary's father, from Friends, 15 Creole Bibles.
- Marion Lee Holland, Lana Pieczynski's grandfather, from the Episcopal Church Women, 4 French Bibles.
- Ruth B. Lindsay from John and Sue on the occasion of the 95th anniversary of her birthday, June 14th, 10 French Bibles.

These names will be inscribed in the Bibles in Haiti.

Our present challenge is to raise \$500 for Farms International which assists people in developing countries to start new businesses by granting them small loans, thus enabling them to support themselves. They are expected to give a tithe to their church from their earnings and to repay the loan as they are able so others may be assisted.

The Missions Plate is located at the front of the church. Gifts may be given during Holy Eucharist. The total Missions plate giving to August 12th was \$2,259.94 = \$68.48/wk. of which \$1,958 has been disbursed.

Respectfully Submitted, John A. Lindsay, Chair

Sky VBS 2012: Children, teens, and adults alike all learned that "Everything is possible with God & trust God, no matter what".

"God Bless Holy Trinity Church. My grandchildren are attending VBS, their first church experience, and are having a fabulous time! God Bless Holy Trinity Church!"

"Mom, I want to go back next year!"

"I heard my daughter singing Vacation Bible School songs in the shower!"

These are just a few of the comments that were received during VBS!

You did it! You came through; we had sponsorships for 40 children – Thank you GOD. Thank you parishioners for supporting the VBS leadership team at Holy Trinity, for showing that you care about children in our community. Thank you for supporting the fundraisers, the cook out, and the Uno's dough raiser for your donations. Thank you for bringing in blue Jell-O, bags of balloons, white crepe paper (the bandages to wrap Lazarus in), black trash bags (used to represent the sins of the world that Jesus' death on the cross released us from), zip lock bags, duct tape of various colors, and so many more items that all came together to make for one unforgettable week for children, teens and adults alike. **THANK YOU AND THANK GOD.**

Holy Trinity Vestry News

The vestry met three times over the summer, and twice with the Stewardship Prayer Group, the Finance Committee, and the Building and Grounds Stewardship Team; we have some interesting information to share.

- A new website was launched in July, which we hope will be a valuable resource for our parish: go to holytrinitysouthbridge.org and see all the resources and information available.
- Zumba classes are being offered in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays during the summer.
- A new Christian Formation program called Family Church is starting this fall on September 23, 2012 and will be the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parents and children will attend together in the parish hall during the 10:15 service liturgy of the Word and return to the sanctuary for communion.
- We received a good report from the audit committee, which had some helpful suggestions for improvement.
- The price of oil is around \$3.30 a gallon and we will be able to purchase 2500 gallons to see us through December.
 - Matt Bachand and others from the building and grounds team have been working on the church grounds trimming hedges, weeding, doing general upkeep.
- We unanimously passed several motions submitted by the finance committee; they are as follows:
 1. "to restore the Parrettie Fund distributions to the rector's discretionary Fund to \$200 a month leaving the balance for the Parrettie Committee to distribute.
 2. "to restore the restricted endowment funds that were closed using \$40,330.60 available in the Shepherd Fund:
 - o Restore the Hobbs Fund: \$2,897.83.
 - o Restore the Story Fund to original gift value: \$10,500.00
 - o Restore the Buckley Fund: \$22,258.36.
 - o Keep the Shepherd Fund at the remaining balance (currently \$4,674.42)
 3. "to receive a \$10,961.29 gift of life insurance from Gertrude Brennan in memory of John and Hazel Wells. Send \$2,000 of that gift to start a new Holy Trinity Legacy Fund, leaving the balance of \$8,961.29 in the checking account for cash flow purposes, but with the intent to preserve the capital. If at the end of the year we have met our budget, more money may be added to the Holy Trinity Legacy Fund."
- As we already have a number of endowments, The finance committee is working on establishing an overarching FUND, called a *Holy Trinity Endowment* Fund into which all the existing funds will move. There will be more information about this fund in the coming months.

On August 14th, Pastor Mary met with the vestry and let us know she and Ray will be retiring to Minnesota on October 14th. This came as quite a surprise to all, but as we know God has a promised and preferred future for Holy Trinity. By the time you read this news article we will have met on August 26th for the *Discernment 2013 gathering*. We will need to continue our conversations in all corners of our parish and now is the time for us to pray and listen carefully for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Susan Howland, clerk of the vestry

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

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

unless otherwise noted

The Reverend Dr. Mary Gustafson, Rector
The Reverend Mary Hicks, Retired Deacon

The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts
The Rt. Reverend Gordon Scruton

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist (said)
10:15 a.m. Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist

Save These Dates

Tuesday, in September—7:30 p.m.—Bible Study—HTC

Wednesday, beginning September 12th—7:30 p.m.—Choir

Rehearsal

Weekday Mornings in September—9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer
(except the 5th—7th)

Tuesday, September 4th—4:00 p.m.—Gathering on Hamilton
Street

Saturday, September 8th—2:00 p.m.—Healing Prayer Group—
Deacon Mary Hicks' Home

Sunday, September 9th—12:00 Noon—Vestry Meeting
2:30 p.m.—Overlook Bible Study

Wednesday, September 12th—3:45 p.m.—Daughters of the King

Friday, September 14—9:30 a.m.—Overlook Holy Eucharist

Sunday, September 16th—12:00 Noon—Inquirers' Class

Tuesday, September 18th—4:00 p.m.—Gathering on
Hamilton Street

Wednesday, September 19th—October Tidings Articles Due

Tuesday, September 25—6:00 p.m.—Young Parents' Potluck @
Eileen DeMings' Home