



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

September 2014

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

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A MESSAGE FROM FR. RICHARD

Dear friends,

September is a time of renewal and returning. Yes, it is a time for new beginnings and restored commitment. I am looking forward to our celebration of a new ministry at the end of the month. But I am so aware that it not *my* new ministry, but *OUR* new ministry. What we celebrate is what we have begun, together, for a time already, in the name of Jesus, to further the movement of God's Spirit in our midst and in our town. This is a celebration of the TEAM that is Holy Trinity, wanting to forge a glimpse of God's "rightness" in the life we share. What is new, perhaps, is your gracious invitation to include me in the deep, standing tradition of teaching, care, service and worship; that has long existed at HTC!

When living in "community," it is not necessary to always be in total agreement. Just in Love. The Joy of community comes in being able to see the opinion of someone who is "essentially other" as a new toothsome morsel to savor, consider, search and respond – and perhaps to grow in new ways of thinking. Community is not easy. How many confabs and conferences have dotted the ecclesiastical landscape over the centuries, only some of which actually found resolution! But the commitment to live together, discuss together, work and move together; with respect for one another: therein lies the Holy Spirit. For God is Love, and to share love, is to see God.

Calling all you divine sparks!!! Come to the feast without price! Come in joy!!

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

FUN IN SEPTEMBER

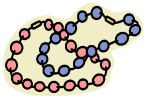


Holy Trinity Church has accepted Hope Wilson's offer to join in the fun at Rice - O - Rama. We will be offering for sale coffee, donuts, apple crisp (donated by UNOs), bottled water, iced tea and homemade lemonade. {The VBS recipe!} We will be sharing what we do best - our hospitality and Jesus' Love and Joy on Sunday, September 7, at the Spencer Fair grounds - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please support this FUNdraising event by providing ingredients for the lemonade (20 gallons of it!) and coming to help man the table for a couple of hours. At the back of the church you will find post-it notes with pictures of bottles of lemon juice, gallon jugs of water (on sale at Walmart for 98c), and bags of sugar. Please take a post-it or two and bring the product to church before August 31. You will also see post-it notes with time slots for much needed help. HELP NEEDED: Please check your schedule and see if you can spare an hour or two of your time to join the FUN. Questions? Please see Tamsin.





Volunteers needed for Kids' Crafts for Christ. We are seeking people to help kids make crafts under our brand new tent and table on September 7 at Rice O Rama at the Spencer Fairgrounds, and September 13 at Cops N Kids event at the Southbridge Airport. The crafts are free and we will give our love of Christ to all! Please see Eileen DeMings to sign up for a two hour shift. Must love to color, string beads, and smile!



Mutual Ministry Covenant

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Trinity church,

By now you may have noticed that many things here at HTC are a little different than they used to be. Following the work of the profile committee, search committee and calling Fr Richard Signore, the vestry on behalf of the parish, for the last 8 months or so, has been working on a Halftime Clergy Position Description for us at Holy Trinity Church – Why? do we need that you ask – well – we cannot expect our half time clergy, 20 to 25 hrs. per week, to do all that full time clergy, 40 to 50 hrs per week, would do. We would all like “HTC” to function as it has always done and if our half time clergy isn’t doing everything – who will do the rest? What does that mean to us in the pews? We can be all that God would have us be - The Hands and Feet of Jesus on Hamilton Street - through Mutual Ministry: The members and friends, and the vestry working hand in hand, together with the clergy.

The vestry has spent many hours during meetings, our annual retreat and at home, reading, praying, sifting through, the Who does what? Where? When? How? and Why? We have considered those things that only clergy can do, as well as the gifts and talents that each of us have to share. The culmination of this work was presented at the August Vestry meeting when we approved our new Mutual Ministry Covenant. This document sets out our expectations and goals; it can be considered a road map of who we are and what HTC is all about, it is all inclusive, there are 3 sections Clergy, Vestry and Members/ Congregation - each and every one of us has a part to play in Mutual Ministry. You will find the covenant printed below, it is also posted on the HTC notice board in the foyer (with the Letter of Agreement and Covenant), and on the HTC web site. I invite you to read it through from top to bottom and see for yourselves how we all fit into the jigsaw puzzle, how we are all one body, different parts playing different roles but all working together, moving towards Gods Promised and Preferred future for Holy Trinity Church.

Now that this covenant is in place it will be reviewed annually, together with the Letter of Agreement and Covenant, signed, May 12, 2014. June 2015 will find Fr Richard, the Vestry and the Members/ Congregation talking about how well we are meeting the expectations set out in the Mutual Ministry Covenant – which areas are we excelling in and which areas need work? Are clergy, vestry, members and friends doing what is expected of them? The objective of the yearly Mutual Ministry review will be to continually update, amend, fine tune, and keep current and relevant the Mutual Ministry Covenant. As always your questions and comments are welcomed and appreciated – please contact me either after church, via phone: 774 200 4279 or email: abritinusa@gmail.com. ~Tamsin Lucey. Sr. Warden

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Mutual Ministry Covenant

The following Clergy Position Description, Administrative (Vestry) Responsibilities, and Ministry for Members (Congregation) are to be considered individually and collectively, along with the Letter of Agreement and Covenant, signed, May 12, 2014, as the bases for annual mutual ministry reviews. A mutual ministry review provides an opportunity to review the points in this document and to evaluate our progress and our possibilities for the next year.

Clergy Position Description

- Lead the liturgy and deliver the sacraments.
- Model servant leadership and community building.
- Work with the lay leadership to identify the needs of the parish and establish and provide a format for a variety of Adult Christian Formation opportunities.
- Periodically meet with the members of all lay ministries and conduct a mutual ministry review.
- Work with the lay leadership to mentor, support, nurture, maintain and grow, as led by the spirit, all liturgical ministries, including Family Worship and Mission and Outreach.
- Include musical gifts to enhance worship experiences.
- Along with the lay leadership, network with organizations such as the Ecumenical Fellowship Council, Southbridge Community Connections, and local clergy, with the goal of establishing partnerships to nurture possible community mission programs.
- Participate in parish events as feasible.
- Work with Organist/Music Director Search Committee toward implementing an employee (non-parishioner)-led music program for worship services.
- Be aware of the necessary administrative pieces of parish ministry and delegate responsibilities as much as possible.
- Model good self-care by managing work hours, private time and family time.

Administration (Vestry) Responsibilities

- For Tidings, submit articles, proofread, prepare for distribution when necessary.
- Submit articles for bulletins – non-worship content.
- Oversight of secretary and sexton positions by Senior Warden.
- Vestry oversight of building management, to include:
 - Rentals
 - Write/amend agreements.
 - Meet with potential renters.
 - Fill in agreement and take deposit and fee or instruct Chris to do so.
 - Arrange for opening and closing.
 - Physical plant
- Oversee and facilitate lines of communication
 - Incoming phone calls re: non-clergy matters; urgent and non-urgent; follow up.
 - Incoming emails re: non-clergy matters; urgent and non-urgent; follow up.
 - Website, FaceBook content, etc.
 - All parish emails – determine who will decide what and when information will be sent.
- Crisis/emergency/death, etc. – determine who will handle these when priest is not in town.
- Grow lay ministry membership.
- Work with Fr. Richard to determine where the vestry/parish may need to devote time and energy to keep moving forward.

Mutual Ministry Covenant continued on page 4.....

- Be models of the hospitality of Christ by welcoming all.
- Monitor the pulse of the parish.

Ministry for Members (Congregation)

- Evaluate, grow and maintain lay ministries to ensure that they are life giving, not life extracting.
- Develop a Lay Visitors Ministry.
- Expand the Visiting Eucharistic Ministry.
- Pray for clergy and lay leadership.
- Communicate and engage with the clergy, clergy's spouse, officers and vestry members.
- Participate in parish life and events.
- Engage in discipleship.
- Encourage ministries that are inclusive of the congregation and approved by the vestry and clergy.
- Allow the ministers (ordained and lay) to lead the parish while in conversation with the congregation.
- Be a hand or foot in the larger communities' events and movements.
- Be aware of what direction(s) our town is moving in and provide positive encouragement.

Senior Warden Speaking

September 30, at 7:00 p.m. will see us joyously celebrating the New Ministry of Fr. Richard Signore at Holy Trinity Church. Bishop Doug Fisher will preside and Fr Richard Signore has asked The Rev. Bill Coyne to preach. A reception with light refreshments will follow - so plan to join us for an evening of rejoicing and celebration as Holy Trinity moves forward as a parish together in New Ministry.

Holy Trinity experienced an exciting, uplifting, rewarding and busy summer and the fall is shaping up the same way! Sept 7 will see HTC at Rice O Rama, serving Coffee, Donuts, Apple Crisp (this year donated by Uno's), Bottled Water, Iced Tea and Homemade Lemonade AND sharing our love of Christ through "Kids Crafts for Christ". Sept 13 will see "Kids Crafts for Christ" at Cops for Kids (Southbridge Airport). We have Undies Sunday for West Street School and a baptism both coming up at the end of the month. During Sept you are invited to help provide ingredients for the now, new tradition of Holiday Pie making at HTC that will happen in October. Also coming up in October the Community Fall Cookout.

As Tidings goes to print I can announce that Anne Bouvier-Munroe will be our new organist - details of when she will start in the October Tidings.

Please continue to pray for Fr. Richard, Nina and the vestry as we move forward continually guided by the Holy Spirit, we are moving towards God's Promised and Preferred Future for us 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 or cell phone 774 200 4279.

~Tamsin Lucey



SOUND SYSTEM WORKING...LOUD AND CLEAR!



Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Our current format is now in its 6th year. This mission and outreach opportunity, quiet and unassuming but essential to our neighborhood community, is needed as much today as it was in the past. Over the years the way the parish has engaged in this ministry has evolved, but the core objective has remained constant – to help those in need and to do so in a real way with a basic commodity, food. Holy Trinity Church does so with Love and Joy. On September 1, brown paper bags and a suggested shopping list will be on a music stand by the font. Please take a bag and shop from the list as you are able. Food returned by Sunday, September 28, will be blessed before going to the pantry that week. 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.
Bill Nelson, Joshua Spooner and Tamsin Lucey*



Reception

There will be a reception following the celebration of new ministry for Fr. Richard Signore on Tuesday, September 30th, at 7pm. The Hospitality Committee will be contacting members of the congregation to help with set up (at 9am) and clean up on the day of the event, along with donations of finger desserts.

Your help will be greatly appreciated for this special occasion.

Barbara Wilson

Financial Report

On the income side

- Pledge income is off by about \$4,000.
- Overall we are about \$3, 500 ahead of budget after subtracting out prepaid pledges. This is due in part to the quarterly trust income received in July, "other giving" is up and rental income is up. See the Budget report for details

On the expense side:

- There are a few budget lines underspent, but enough money in the checking account to cover future expense if needed.
- The vestry voted to use reserve funds for the budget lines overspent.
- We are still holding the cricket money in reserve awaiting the bill.
- We paid a \$400 electrical repair bill for the outside lights.
- The sound system components were paid out of reserve funds, and the parish sound system fundraiser is in full swing...THANK YOU ALL.
- The oil and insurance reserves are put aside monthly, for payment of these large annual bills.
- Oil was contracted for the 2014-15 heating season: 3800 gallons for \$3.15/gallon.
- The \$3,000 grant for the burner booster was received from the diocese and will be paid to Tasse's in September towards the burner booster cost.
- We finally tracked down why the Church heats up when the Undercroft calls for heat. It is a costly valve that we will have repaired this summer, but will save on oil in the future. We will update as more information is known.

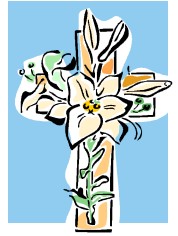
Susan Howland, Treasurer

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE BY REQUEST.

SILK FLOWERS NEEDED

Remember walking into church on Easter morning rejoicing for our Risen Lord? Remember the floral cross that adorned the sanctuary? Well, thinking ahead, in preparation for next year, we need your support in keeping that cross filled with silk flowers! Last year, we used silk flowers from the Family Worship/VBS resources. We had to disrobe the cross for this year's VBS program. We are now looking for donations of silk flower stems of any kind and any color! If you have stems that you no longer need and would like to have them be a part of the Easter cross, please bring them to church and give to either Bart, Tamsin, or Chris, our secretary. If you would prefer to help out with a gift card to Michael's Craft Store, this will allow us to purchase silks when they have their end of season sales and would be much appreciated. Thank you so much for your help supporting this new tradition at HTC.

Bart Krug, pbprov@gmail.com, 774-289-9670



Weird Animals VBS

"I'm feelin good, good, good in a crazy way...."

These lyrics from VBS kept us going strong for five busy days in August. It's hard to summarize what VBS was like this year, but I'll try.

VBS was:

- **Exciting-** kids were thrilled with the set and the weird hallway and crazy flowers all over the church.
- **Energizing-** Lana started the theme song and.... The kids started dancing and singing and all the work we did, that YOU did, got us to keep on coming back. The teen and tween crew leaders were so terrific!
- **Engaging-** From Bible Adventures to Games, the kids were into it!!! We sold lemonade, the old fashioned kind, and in front of the church as a way to show we are committed to West Street School. They understood the purpose of each class.
- **Encouraging-** we saw kids hug each other, give high fives, serve each other and help each other. The adults worked tirelessly but gave each other what they needed to return each day (homemade meals for one!)
- **Evangelical-** we weren't afraid to say God Bless, God Loves you on the street, to strangers and to our neighbors. When two ladies came in thinking we were holding a flea market, we didn't turn them away but told them about VBS. Well, you know what happened? We got a new camper the next day!!! Yes, they came in for one reason but left with a place to send a little boy that needed love. God sent them to us for a purpose and WE WERE LISTENING.

VBS this year was awesome and incredible and tiring and joyful. And I can't wait to do it again next year.

It's hard to just say "Thank you" to all those that worked tirelessly to make Weird Animals a success. This was a team effort, behind the scenes and right up in front. To those that donated your hard earned treasure, to those that painted and shopped and collected and stapled, to those that prepared and practiced and prepped, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If there was ever a "God week," this was it.

Yours in Christ, Eileen DeMings on behalf of the VBS Team



Undies Sunday is September 28! Donate underwear and socks for West Street School!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

13—Barbara Galli
27—Rose Reith
27—Frances Thompson
27—Noni Linton
28—Bobbie Helbig

**STAY CONNECTED - LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK!**

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SOUTHBRIDGE

Fall Pie and Baked Goods Sale – Save the date!

On November 1, we will hold a baked goods sale, complete with the Holy Trinity “holiday pies” and a variety of baked goods! There's a considerable amount of preparatory work needed for an event like this, so we'll be getting an early start. August 31, on the board at the back of the church, you will find picture post-its for the items needed to make the pies. If more convenient for you, a gift card to any of the local grocery stores would be greatly appreciated. All donations should be at the church by Sunday, September 21.

But wait! There's even MORE ways to participate!! October 5, after the service, we will be assembling and freezing the apple pies and apple crisps. Please plan to stop by, peel an apple or two, and join the fellowship that will take place in the Undercroft kitchen. We can definitely use all the help we can get on that day.



Stay tuned for further announcements in the October Tidings and weekly bulletins regarding the bake sale.

Joe DiSalvatore, Jdisalva21@hotmail.com, 617-875-5741

THE MISSION PLATE

In October, Health Teams International will be returning to Cambodia to provide medical, dental, visual and spiritual care. During September, the Mission Plate will collect offerings to offset their expenses for drugs they need to obtain over in Cambodia. I will be telling you some experiences my brother-in-law had on his last trip while doing eye exams and providing glasses for the villagers, so stay tuned! And thanks for all your offerings this year. May God bless you all and those we serve here and abroad.

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

Box Tops for Education

West Street School, like many other schools, collects Box Tops for Education. These can be found on a large variety of food products that you may already be buying. Please bring Box Tops for Education and place them in the collection boxes in the Narthex.



**Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall
September 14 & 28**



Holy Trinity Church, Episcopal
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

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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. - 1:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, September 7—9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.—Rice O Rama, Spencer
Fairgrounds

Monday, September 8—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Saturday, September 13—9:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.—Cops N Kids

Event—Southbridge Airport

Sunday, September 14—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Sunday, September 28—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Tuesday, September 30—7:00 p.m.—Fr. Richard's New Ministry
Celebration

Class Information

Wednesdays @ 9:00 a.m.—Yoga

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.—Yoga

Fridays @ 7:30 a.m.—TaiChi (no class the last Friday of the month)

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IS COLLECTING
CANS AND BOTTLES FOR MISSION &
OUTREACH. DONATIONS GO IN THE LARGE
SILVER BOX IN THE PARISH HALL.**