



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

August 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!!!!

We are planning a Bible Study of a somewhat different approach for the first 4 Sundays in August. I would recommend packing a light lunch, and we can start after coffee-hour, for about an hour or so, for those who are able to stay.

The stated goal is to get a little clarity on the historical roots of Jesus' life and ministry in the Hebrew faith and practice. The more I look into sources, it would seem we need to do a "show and tell" on some (of the many) methods of interpreting the Bible. And make available some source material to help give a broader background. We hope to re-read some of the parables and sections of the letter to the Romans again, but perhaps, as if for the first time.

Plans may change as I slog through more back-ground material. But for now, try google-ing "History and the New Testament", or "Jewish roots of the New Testament." It is fascinating to see what a revolution-prone environment of strife, radical change, and intrigue, in which our faith had its birth. Well, guess I have to dust off some of those books I should have read in seminary! More later!!!

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Richard+

Senior Warden Speaking

With August upon us we are more than half way through the year! We look forward to an exciting month with lots of parish activities planned. VBS plans are well in hand though I am sure that the team would love to hear from anyone willing to help. Trisha O'Brien-Briere is heading up the decorating starting Sunday July 27th and Eileen DeMings would like to hear from anyone willing to help during the week of VBS even if it is for only 1 day. We offer VBS because we feel called to spread the good news of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to the youth in our midst, in our community, our neighborhood and our parish. We are also called to nurture our own soul and spirit – to replenish - so that we can continue to be disciples. Fr Richard is offering several opportunities for just that in August – a Bible Study (Sundays after the worship service) that will get “to grips” with what being a Christian really meant/was like in the time of Christ, and on 2 Wednesdays – there will be evening prayer and s'mores, outside around a fire, if raining, prayer and s'mores WILL happen inside! Look for more details elsewhere in Tidings, on the web site and Facebook.

We have accomplished much this year so far, refinishing the “cricket”, dealt with a carpenter ant infestation, thoroughly cleaned 3 kitchen areas, obtained a food permit and called Fr Richard as Priest-in-Charge, to name but a few. As we go to print, the search for our new organist is in full swing and our committee is interviewing possible candidates. We pray that news on that front will be shared with the parish very soon. As you will also read elsewhere in Tidings, the issues with the “sound system” are being addressed and more about that will be forth coming BEFORE the Sept. issue of Tidings. The Food Permit and ServSafe certificate are on display in the small kitchen upstairs - I passed the ServSafe exam!

The Community Cook Out on July 3rd was a huge success – you won't want to miss the fun next year - please put it on your calendar NOW for next year.

God is indeed sending us those we should be “connecting” with in the community, Fr. Richard and I are engaged in several long-term conversations about how this great building of ours can be used to benefit the community, this neighborhood and the parish. We are truly blessed to have parishioners willing to be “involved” and help where needed – this month too many to thank individually - but please be sure, in your daily prayers, to thank God for providing them in our midst!

As you see, we did not take the summer off and the fall is “ramping up” to be just as exciting; stay tuned: if nothing else YOUR invite to the Celebration of New Ministry for Fr. Richard on Sept 30th will be arriving in the mail soon!

Please continue to pray for Fr. Richard, Nina, and the vestry as we move forward continually guided by the Holy Spirit. We are moving toward 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

You cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do.

GOD MOMENTS

A God Moment is literally a moment - the split second when you become overwhelming sure that **God is present** at that point in time, or the split second when you realize/recognize the presence of **God working** in your life, those of others, in the community or in the world. Being good stewards of time, but not limiting the Holy Spirit within us, it is preferred that those wishing to share a God Moment keep their witness to three minutes. God Moments that require a longer explanation may be shared in the Tidings by submitting a paragraph to the church secretary.

Walk Around Town

Bishop Doug Fisher has asked each parish in the diocese to "take a walk in the neighborhood" to experience the things that those who live and work in the neighborhood of the church, experience. The vestry meeting on July 14th was a "walk in the neighborhood", 5 groups of vestry members and parishioners, who live in Southbridge, took 5 different routes/loops around the church and afterwards shared their experience. Whilst I was not present, I am reliably informed that many people found out things they never knew about "our neighborhood" and a lively discussion followed the walk. Trisha O'Brien-Briere and Pam Graham share their experience below:

Trisha: "I found it very interesting and I learned more about the town I live in. I discovered new territory. People we met seemed friendly, yet we are friendly."

Pam: "I have lived in Southbridge for five years. There are many parts of town that I haven't seen, nor ventured in to. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore. Trisha, Bart, and I walked the area behind Big Bunny. We came upon a group of young men fishing off a bridge. They were very excited to tell us what they were fishing for (bait for their turtle), and they even showed us their prize in a bucket. The sprinkle of the rain did not deter them from their mission.

People were very friendly....those that were out waved or greeted us. There was an eclectic mix of housing on our route...multi-family homes mixed with neat one-family dwellings with maintained gardens, as well as some neglected properties.

I realized that there were so many parts of my community yet unfamiliar to me. For the most part, my community engagement includes church, the grocery store, and errands. I look forward to exploring other corners of our community. It's amazing what you can see when you just open your eyes. It was a worthwhile exercise, and a bonding experience with those who participated."

The vestry will reference the walks and discussion whenever we are considering Holy Trinity's place/role in community and will be taking more walks in the neighborhood at different times of the day, and year. We look forward to other members of the parish joining us and sharing their experience afterwards for more lively discussion about the neighborhood and how we fit in.

Tamsin Lucey, Senior Warden

STAY CONNECTED - LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SOUTHBRIDGE

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

At the end of July, 6 bags of groceries were delivered to the Blessed John Paul II Food Pantry. Those at the food pantry are indeed thankful for all that we provide, just as we are thankful for all that God provides for us. The Loaves and Fishes ministry is one opportunity that we have to share that thankfulness. The need for food in the summer months is as great as any other time of the year, please continue to contribute food as you are able. Brown paper bags and shopping list suggestions are always available at the back of the church –they will be by the front on Sunday August 3 – food returned by Sunday August 31st will be blessed before going to the pantry that week.

“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*



**VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES AND
FINANCIAL
DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE
BY REQUEST.**



Youth Christian Formation
**Join us for Family Worship
in Blakely Hall**

August 10 & 24.

Financial Report

We are at the half-year mark, and Fr. Richard is formally settled with us.

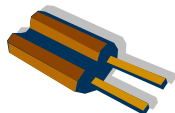
All the budget income and expense lines are within normal limits for this time of the year.

- The pledge income is off by an additional \$1,000 over budget, but is offset by other income [lines over budget.](#)
- The largest under-budget expense lines (Aside from clergy and organist lines) are building insurance and oil and those funds have been put in reserve.
- There is enough free cash in the checking account to cover all anticipated budget expense, and reserve funds are available for other projects.
- The Cole Contracting bill for the cricket repair has not arrived yet, but the funds are in reserve; once we know the final bill we will know what is available for future projects. It is time to do another "walk-through" of the building and continue on with the building maintenance phase plan.
- Tamsin has been in conversation with the health inspector about serving food.
 - *To meet the health inspections requirements some small kitchen renovations were made, and the areas were thoroughly cleaned, and new sanitizing practices are being put in place; and Tamsin took the ServSafe training, so we are now in compliance for serving food. Future needs may be a new dishwasher(s) downstairs and the addition of a hand washing sink or installation of a three-compartment dish washing sink in place of the one we have now.
 - *We have at least a preliminary certificate to serve food; a yearly cost of \$100. We will need to budget for this annually.

Susan Howland, Treasurer

Q90.1 VISITING VBS KIDS!

On Tuesday, August 5th, Q90.1, a local Christian radio station, will be set up outside of our church and handing out free popsicles and other little goodies to the kids at VBS!



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES DURING HOSPITALITY HOUR

Beginning this Sunday, a table with chairs along with activities will be set up for the children on the Parish Hall stage.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CORNER

Let's face it...even adults have trouble sitting still from time to time! A children's table and chairs, along with activities, are now located on the left side of the pews near the altar for the children to utilize as needed.



Family Worship "To Go" Kit

We will set up our craft table at two events in September- Cops and Kids and Rice-O-Rama. Please see Cat Reith-Lowery if you would like to volunteer.

Family Worship (FW) News

Thank you to our FW leaders this summer. We've made bracelets, planted seeds and illustrated bible stories. The format of Family Worship truly enhances the church experience for all who participate. Leaders are essential to the success of the program! On August 24, there will be a "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the service. ANYONE who is going to school may bring in their backpack (that means pre-school to graduate students) to be blessed. We want all students to know that God is with them during their days at school.

Eileen DeMings

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS FOR THE PARISH

VBS is upon us! August 4-8 will find Holy Trinity full of energy and excitement. Please keep us in your prayers. We will have a special Sunday service on August 10 to showcase what we've learned and feature the great VBS music! Our local mission this year is to collect school supplies for West Street School students. During the week, campers and volunteers will bring in pencils, notebooks, scissors, crayons, and glue sticks. Parishioners are invited to support this VBS effort by bringing in the same school supplies on Sunday, August 10th. They will be blessed during the service.





Sponsor-a-child for VBS!!!!

25 children have been sponsored to date! Thank you to all who have sponsored a child for VBS. There is still time to help if you are able!

Sponsorship of one "Weird Animal" will allow us to give:

Take home, bible based science gadgets, a set of FIVE Bible Buddy dog tags with a chain, a theme-based healthy snack, lunch, keep-sake T-Shirt, and will plant the seed for future Christian worship!!!

Sponsorship is \$15.00. Forms available at the back of the church.

Can't sponsor but would like to contribute a food item? Please see Susan Howland- Snack Coordinator Extraordinaire!

Would like to contribute your time? Please see Eileen DeMings, Weird Director.

Your support, your prayers, your help is deeply appreciated.

Peace, Eileen

**Thank you for your
"coffee cans for
flowers" donations!
We are all set!**



S'more Wednesday Worship...

On August 13 and 20 we will gather in the yard behind the church at 7:00 p.m. for Night Prayer (compline) followed by s'mores and fellowship around the fire bowl. Be sure to bring your lawn chair and your appetite! In case of rain, we will gather inside and still have s'mores.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 - Pheobe Reith-Lowery
11 - Joel Khattar
11 - Emilyynn Bousquet
11 - Linda Spooner
13-Priscilla Reich
14 - Jared Burns
16-John Linton
17-Suzanne Sharp
20-Colleen DeMings
25-Ethan Anderstrom
25-Braden Bullard



Overflowing With Thanks

Thank you to all who supported West Street School by attending our 3rd of July Summer

Cookout. More than 80 parishioners, friends and Hamilton Street neighbors attended the picnic and over \$200 was collected.

Blessing
of the
Backpacks



**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 24
AT THE
9:30 A.M.
SERVICE.**



Is the Vestry listening? Update on the Sound System

The vestry IS listening and we are aware that there are ongoing problems with the church sound system. The present sound system was installed in 2000 for a cost of \$8,125; the cost was underwritten entirely by one parishioner as a gift to the parish. For at least five years the sound system has been problematic, cutting in and out and generally being “fussy.”

At the last vestry meeting we all agreed we MUST address this problem. Ellen Lincourt arranged for a sound engineer (work colleague) to come and evaluate the sound system. And for just \$100, he made the following observations about our system:

- The speakers are great and don’t need replacing.
- The system was installed well, the “case” is modular and the components can be replaced one at a time as needed.
- The amplifier is old and probably causing the sound to cut out; it needs to be replaced.
- There are two wireless receivers that power the small portable units. The receiver technology is outdated, the portable units are malfunctioning, and they are too old to be replaced. New wireless receivers need to be installed with new portable units.
- Over time other component s should be updated, but they are functional now.
- The system, being installed in a closet, needed more ventilation; the consultant drilled ventilation holes to help cool the system.

We’re working on getting an estimate of the cost to do the repairs and then work on coming up with a way to fund the project. Thanks to all for your patience as we work to address the sound issues.

Susan Howland, on behalf of the vestry

THE MISSION PLATE

It is hard to believe that schools will be opening again at the end of this month! Every year, many parents struggle to afford all their child’s required school supplies. It is our mission to help the kids obtain what they need to complete their assignments and excel! Please make your donations in August to the Mission Plate and Holy Trinity will purchase supplies to help neighboring children attending West Street School. How good it was to be ready for school when we were young...let’s help fill their backpacks so that they will be prepared on “day one”, too! With thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity, 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.

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

Holy Trinity Church, Episcopal
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Southbridge, MA 01550

Holy Trinity Church

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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

August 4th through 8th—9-11:45am—VBS

Sunday, August 3—Take a shopping list or bag for St. John Paul II
Food Pantry

Sunday, August 3—11:30 a.m.—Bible Study

Tuesday, August 4—Q90.1 visiting VBS kids

Sunday, August 10—Loose Plate Collection goes to Food Share

Sunday, August 10—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Sunday, August 10—9:30 a.m.—VBS Celebration & School Supply
Blessing

Sunday, August 10—11:30 a.m.—Bible Study

Monday, August 11—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, August 13—7:00 p.m.—S'more Wednesday Worship

Sunday, August 17—11:30 a.m.—Bible Study

Wednesday, August 20—7:00 p.m.—S'more Wednesday Worship

Sunday, August 24—9:30 a.m.—Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 24—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Sunday, August 24—11:30 a.m.—Bible Study

Class Information

Wednesdays @ 9:00 a.m.—Yoga

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.—Yoga

Fridays @ 7:30 a.m.—TaiChi