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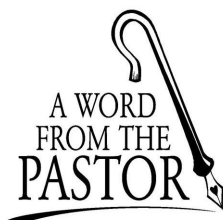
Don't Forget!

- * Food pantry items: Soups & stews, crackers, mayo, ketchup, mustard, relish, toilet tissue, soap, dish soap
- * Bring in your soda cans and bottles and donate them to the Mission box in the Parish Hall!
- * If you have a change in address, email, or phone number, please fill out a Welcome Card (in the pew) and put it in the offering box for the secretary. Thanks!

DECEMBER TIDINGS

Volume 1, Issue 12

December 2019



Dear Friends!

Advent begins a new church year with a quiet build-up to the Holy birth. Tradition calls us to renew our use of the ancient disciplines: prayer, scripture, silence, and waiting with active hope. We hope God will draw near and give us inspiration and be born anew within the soul.

Here is a journey that can easily be taken! Paul's letter to the Galatians is a short piece, only six chapters. One can read it in a single sitting, or read it by chapters over a few

days. One might read it several times in the four weeks of Advent.

What makes this such an interesting exercise is that it is a reflection on who we are in Christ during a time of conflict and polarization. We can read it to put a new frame around our current climate of accusation and suspicion. Just to introduce the characters: Paul has begun to preach beyond Israel, in the Gentile cities. The Apostle Peter has come to "inspect the troops" and happily eats with the Gentile convert without regard for Jewish dietary laws. But when Judaizers (proponents of a full emersion into Jewish law for Gentile converts) arrive in Galatia, Peter

draws back from his new friends in Christ, and the new freedoms he has experienced. Paul (a.k.a. 'speaks truth to power') does just that! And the holy fur flies!

Let's live with the scriptural truth even as we contemplate the source and meaning of the conflict we are in; and pray God to lead us out of the wilderness.

Happy Advent!!!

I remain,
Your friend and Rector,
(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore



Music Notes from Anne



Christmas Eve Special

Music: 15 minutes before the Christmas Eve service, we will be playing some Christmas music that includes, instrumental and vocal. This will include the

harp, clarinet, piano and/or organ music. Come 15 minutes early and relax, pray, and feel the joy of Christ's birth by celebrating with your church family.

Choir Rehearsal info:

Please feel free to join us for choir rehearsals after church on Sunday, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22. Rehearsal begins at 11:15 at the latest and ends at 12 noon.

Family Worship Presents.... "Chosen Too"

Please join Family Worship on **Sunday, December 15** for their annual Christmas production!

Each of us is chosen by God for a special purpose, but we must be willing to accept what God asks of us. Mary was chosen to love her son Jesus, Joseph was chosen to lead an unlikely family, the shepherds were chosen to find a savior, and

the magi were chosen to follow. All of this was possible because God chose to show his love for us by sending his Son Jesus to be our Savior.

After church, please come into the Parish Hall for coffee hour refreshments and the ECW Cookie Sale! The show will begin around noon but feel free to continue your coffee and cookies at the tables!



Mission Plate

Thank you for your donations during October and November that went toward the two programs in our diocese for veterans. We raised \$265.27. I wish we could sit down and eat a meal with them, and let them know how much we appreciate their service and all they have given for our country.

For December, the donations will go to St. Luke's Guesthouse. I think of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem and finding no room in the inn, and having to stay in the stable. How wonderful that we have, here in Southbridge, the St. Luke's Guesthouse so those in need have a safe and secure place. What a gift! Let's help the guests have a warm and welcoming stay this winter. God bless their journeys.

Suzy Sharp

Christmas Eve Service

Please join us to celebrate the Birth of our Savior on December 24 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary at Holy Trinity! At this Family Eucharist Service, the Gospel lesson will be presented as a Children's Nativity by Family Worship members. This lovely candle-lit service with Christmas hymns is the party at which we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please invite your whole family and friends to join us!

There will not be a Christmas Day service.



SAVE THE DATE!

**CELEBRATE
EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 5, 2019 @
9:30 A.M.**



**Agape service in
the Parish Hall**

ECW's 29th Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

**DECEMBER 15
following the 9:30 a.m.
service**

Please bake some of your favorite Christmas cookies to sell at the cookie sale or come and buy a selection for Advent and Christmas. Leftover cookies will be used for the Christmas Pageant the afternoon of

December 15. Drop off cookies Sunday morning, 12/15, before the 9:30 a.m. service, or by other arrangement. For questions call or email Susan Howland howlands@charter.net 508-612-3198



December Birthdays

2 – Heather Bousquet
4 – Marion Piltzecker
11—Mick Kalber
11—Violet Spooner
11 – Mary Burns
17 – Bill Pieczynski
25—Jesus Christ
25—Ed Bair



Greening the Church

Join us in the age old tradition of greening the church.

Sunday, December 22

11:00 a.m. — 12:00 Noon

We will decorate the sanctuary with “greens” adorning the

windows, pews, advent wreath, lectern and altar. Bringing the symbol of life into the sanctuary is an age old tradition symbolizing the new life in us as we celebrate

Christ’s birthday.

A light lunch of soup and bread will be available for helpers.



Winter Parking on Hamilton Street

From December 1 through April 1, Southbridge limits parking on Hamilton Street.

On EVEN dates: Midnight to 7pm, park on the ODD side of the street;
7pm to midnight park on the EVEN side of the street.

On ODD dates: Midnight to 7pm park on the EVEN side of the street;
7pm to midnight park on the ODD side of the street.



Christmas Memorials

During Christmas services this year, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for His blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office **by Sunday, December 22**. The money for these memorials is used for flowers given to God’s glory as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

Exact wording of memorial will be: Christmas gifts for flowers are given to the Glory of God...

If this gift is in memory of one who has died, choose one of the following:

_____ in Thanksgiving for the life of _____

(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

_____ in Loving Memory of _____

(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

If this gift is in Thanksgiving of a living person, choose the following:

_____ in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of _____

(Name of person or blessing)



ALL DEDICATIONS: PLEASE NOTE WHO THE MEMORIAL/THANKSGIVING IS GIVEN BY:

Given by _____ (Your Name/Names -Please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, use “by his family” or “by her husband” followed by your name or you may simply use your name(s).)

Please return this information sheet, along with your offering (no donation is too small), to the church office or drop it into the offering plate by **Sunday, December 22**. Please make checks payable to **Holy Trinity Church** with the notation “Christmas Memorials” on the memo line. **Do you know someone who would appreciate Christmas flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so that arrangements can be made to bring them flowers:

Area Special Christmas Events

Peace Light: Dec 7 at 10:00
a.m. to 11:00 a.m. @ Brimfield
Congregational Church
Blue Christmas: Wed. Dec. 11
at 7:00 pm @ Bethlehem
Lutheran Church
Festival of Giving Trees: Dec. 5
thru Dec. 8 @ St. John Paul II
Parish's Lasalle Hall.

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(trinity)

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

Save These Dates

December 1, 8, 15, 22—11:15 a.m.—Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 4—6:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine Study

Saturday, December 7—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet

Wednesday, December 11—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Saturday, December 14—9:00 a.m.—Winter Coat Closet

Sunday, December 15—11:00 a.m.—ECW Cookie Sale

12:00 Noon—Family Worship Presents “Chosen Too”

Wednesday, December 18—6:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine Study

Sunday, December 21—11:00 a.m.—Greening of the Church

Tuesday, December 24—4:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Family Service

Sunday, December 29—9:30 a.m.—Festival of Lessons and Carols

****Please note that during Christmas week, the office will be open
on Monday and Friday only. Merry Christmas!**



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving