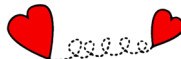




FEBRUARY TIDINGS

Volume 2, Issue 2



February 2020

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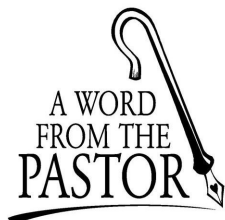
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Rev. Richard Signore—Rector

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Diane Nichols—Sr. Warden

Lynn Garland—Jr. Warden



Dear Friends,

The course of the Epiphany season will have us run the contours of Christ's life in February. On the first Sunday (February 2nd) the chronological presentation of our Lord's life is projected back into Jesus' infancy narratives. "Candlemas" -or- "The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple" — a major feast in the life of Jesus, where He is redeemed from the law to "give the first born" back to God (for the gift in Egypt, when God protected the first-born children before the Exodus). This happens

40 days after His birth. And within a few Sundays, Christ points His face toward Jerusalem; and with Ash Wednesday we set out anew on the Lenten journey.

"Epiphany" is the ancient Greek word for "showing, or manifestation;" and it connotes mystical Divine presence. The adult Jesus continues to present the same contradictions inherent in His birth; the God who changes water into wine and raises the dead—sets Himself to acts of sacrifice and self emptying. The one constant is the self-presentation before God in the Temple; an offering of spotless devotion and honor to the will of God. For our inner peace is only found there, in letting

God's Happiness count before our own. Perhaps this whole Christianity puzzle is the quiet weighing of possibilities, and watching to see what God seeks above it all. A most joyful freedom in God predicated on trust as deep as eternity.

May God rejoice your hearts as the divine life comes to be seen!

I remain,

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



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Don't Forget!

- * Food pantry items: pancake mix, maple syrup, jelly, "fun" cereal
- * 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!

Souperbowl of Caring Soup Sale

On **Sunday, February 2**, there will be a wide variety of soups available for purchase in the parish hall after service.

Proceeds to go to

Foodshare located at Catholic Charities in Southbridge.

If you have any questions or if you are interested in making soup for the

event, please contact Rose Reith at rose.reith@gmail.com or (619) 518-8360.

Suggested Donation:
Quarts: \$5.00
Pints: \$3.00

HOLY TRINITY TREASURER'S REPORT 2019

Operating Budget

Income: overall income was under budget by \$2,700. Some income was over budget, but pledges fell behind this year. We ended the year in a good position to head into 2020.

Expenses: Expenses will be discussed in two categories: Operating expenses and Capital Improvement Expense:

- Operating expenses were \$104,650.56 which is about \$10,000 under budget. This is primarily due to the fact that we did not need to buy a large quantity of oil before the year's end, but the funds have been reserved for when we will make a large purchase for our 7,500 gallon tank.
- The capital improvement expense was \$13,906 which is about \$10,500 over budget. The building committee, with vestry approval recommended a number of necessary building projects and the needed funds were taken from savings. (See Building and Grounds report for details.) An additional capital project was hiring an architect to evaluate what we can and cannot do with the un/underused classroom wing.
- The hospitality line is over budget this year because the 150th anniversary committee was given the go-ahead to plan for the wonderful brunch/lunch we had after the 150th celebration Eucharist with the bishop.
- Many lines were under budget, some because funds were not needed and others because of frugal spending; this helped offset the over budget lines.

Non-operating Budget: The non-operating or other Income/expense section contains extra-budgetary funds received and designated or restricted for a particular mission or purpose.

- We received \$180 to be added to the Legacy Fund principal.
- \$1,313.48 was donated to the Organ Maintenance Fund in honor of and Thanksgiving for Anne Bouvier Monroe.
- A gift of \$100 was given to the Clergy Discretionary Fund.
- A \$1,000 gift was given to fund the purchase of the Lift Every Voice and Sing hymnal. .
- The Parrettie Fund income was \$8,000.

Outreach: Total \$9,562.70

- Childreach/PLAN: \$400 was donated and sent to Childreach to sponsor Nicholas in Kenya.
- The 2019 United Thank Offering was \$908.25
- Food Share: The 2nd Sunday loose plate for Food Share was \$632 which included \$171 from the "Souper Bowl" soup sale.
- The mission plate offerings were \$1,357.59 and were given to various missions (separate report).
- The Good Friday offering was sent to the church in Jerusalem: \$25
- The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service offering of \$345 was given to St. Luke's Guesthouse.
- Parrettie Fund alms given to various people in need: \$3,504.86
- The Rector's discretionary fund inflow for 2019 was \$2,400 funded from the Parrettie Fund, with \$2,390 given in alms to various people in need.

A few other notes:

- In 2019 we re-established the John C. Dirlam Fund, a fund closed in the 1980's that was intended for building needs. This was done by restructuring the endowment portfolio. The John C. Dirlam Fund will now be a permanent fund and the income reserved for building needs.
- Using funds donated previously, the last Station of the Cross was installed for Easter. This set of 12 Stations of the Cross was crafted by the artist and sculptor, Marc Fuller.
- Community Garden Project: \$600. Tamsin Lucey partnered with Ciro DiMeglio who is passionate about reclaiming abandoned town property. Tamsin wrote two grants funded by Cornerstone (\$300) and Hometown (\$300) Banks to purchase water irrigation for the reclaimed lot on Mechanic Street.
- Prayer/Meditation Garden: the vestry approved money from the legacy Fund and Memorial gifts to construct a prayer garden at the front of the church. All labor and fabrication of stones and benches were donated, primarily by Cat Reith-Lowery (and family) and Lynn Garland. (More on this project in 2020. A 3rd bench was donated by Nancy Waugh in memory of her husband Richard Waugh.

Please see the Statement of Financial Position for the total financial picture.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Howland, Treasurer January 4, 2020

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 26

12:00 Noon – Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes



Shrove Tuesday Pancake

Tuesday, February 25

Food served 5:30 —7:00 p.m. in the undercroft (downstairs) of the church.



Kids' crafts available.



Anybody, including grades 6 and up, that would like to help that evening, please be sure to touch base with Susan Howland or Tamsin Lucey. A poster with food/drink donation requests will be put up on February 9th.

Vigil Light

The use of a Vigil Candle is an ancient practice that comes down to us from the Synagogue. The obvious function was to light the space in the Temple, but it also signifies the holiness of the Torah scrolls kept for the reading of the Law. In this regard one can easily see it also meant the light of truth, and the presence of the Living God who inhabits the Holy of Holies. In Christian tradition, the Vigil Candle burns to symbolize the presence of Jesus in the Holy sanctuary, and it remains lit anytime the sacrament of the Body and the Blood are being held in reserve for the use of the sick, or others who may desire to receive communion in special circumstances.

A Vigil Candle dedication may be given as a memorial for the deceased or to burn as a special intention or prayer request. To give a Vigil Candle dedication, one may sign the sheet provided in the back of the church or include the information on a slip of paper with your check and place it in the offering basket. There is no set donation amount—please donate an amount you are comfortable with.



Alleluia Poster

Mardi Gras is the day we put our "Alleluia's" away until Easter. This year at our Mardi Gras dinner we will do this physically! We will create an Alleluia banner: each person can write Alleluia or draw pictures on the banner throughout the evening. At the end of the evening we will roll the banner up and lock it away in a special chest.

The chest will stay on the altar until Easter. On Easter morning The Keeper of the Key will come up on the altar with Fr. Richard and will unlock the chest. They will unfurl the Alleluia banner in front of the congregation.

So come join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and lots of Alleluias!

Lynn Garland



St. Luke's Guesthouse Needs

Flu season is here. St. Luke's is in desperate need of toilet paper, disinfectant cleaner, dish detergent, laundry detergent, & kitchen trash bags. Please consider donating.

Thank you!

~Daughters of the King

February Birthdays

2—Tamsin Lucey
5—Nancy Waugh
6—Briella Bousquet
15—Jones Lowery
18—Judith Reich
23—Emily Thompson



Did You Know?

- Forgot your envelope? Give your pledge electronically through Tithely! Log on to <https://tithe.ly/give?c=83701> to sign up.
- If you give electronically, there is an Electronic Gift Blessing Card that you may put in the offering basket on Sundays so your gift may be blessed! These are located on the hooks in the pews.
- Someone in need of prayers? Write their name on the Prayers of the People sheet at the back of the church. There are prayer cards available to be sent to the person you are praying for. You are welcome to take it home to send, or complete and place in the offering basket for the church to mail.
- Have a change of address, phone number, or email address? Interested in a ministry? Need to speak with Fr. Richard? Please complete the Welcome Card located on the hook in the pews. These are not just for new members!

New Flower Sign-Up

A new flower procedure has been put in place to make it easier for parishioners to dedicate flowers. As you have probably noticed, the sign-up sheet has been

replaced by a card attached to a flower envelope. In order to dedicate flowers, please complete the card and place it in the offering plate with your donation envelope the

week before. Choices are: Cut flowers for \$28.00 or an arrangement for \$38.00. You also may bring your own flowers or request the dried flower arrangement we have

already made up, but please make sure to note that on the card. Thank you!!!



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Women News

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Women invite you to explore two spiritual resources:

- For Advent we started reading **Things Seen and Unseen** by Nora Gallagher. The book follows Nora through the liturgical seasons for one year in the Episcopal Church. 6 of us met on January 12th at Diane Nichols' house to talk about the chapters on Advent and Christmas. We will meet again on March 8th to talk about the Epiphany and Lent chapters at Susan Howland's house, 132 Osgood Rd, Charlton 01507 howlands@charter.net 508-612-3198. There is more information on the Holy Trinity ECW Facebook Group. If you are not a group member email Susan and she will get you connected.
- For Lent we offer the idea of reading **The Poetry of Lent: A Lenten Companion to Mary Oliver's "Devotions"**. **The ECW purchased a group license to download and print this devotional guide. The guide is on the ECW Webpage: <https://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org/episcopal-church-women-ecw/> You will need a Bible, and a copy of Oliver's poems, *Devotions*. The poems can be found online. All information will be posted to the Facebook Group, or contact Susan directly for information. (Contact above)**

\$228 worth of Christmas cookies were sold on December 15th leaving a balance in the ECW Fund of \$498.97. We will be choosing an outreach ministry in 2020.

Blessings in Christ, Susan Howland and Diane Nichols, For the ECW



Creation Care Corner

Following up on a recent communications workshop that I attended on Creation Care, I'd like to share with you information about another "in" phrase definition. **Global Warming** refers to the whole planet warming up, not just the air around us. Most of the surface of the earth is covered with sea water (oceans), and most (90%) of the extra warmth that the earth is experiencing is held in the oceans. Why does this matter and why does that effect the climate?

Why does warmer water effect the climate? Referring to the water cycle, warmer water (sea water, rivers, and lake water) evaporates, rises from the surface of the earth, and enters the atmosphere. As it does so it cools, and as it cools it condenses. When water condenses, droplets form and they fall back to earth. In cold climates, those droplets fall as snow / ice and in warmer climates, as rain. The warmer the water, the more evaporation there is which in turn means the more snow / rain there is. Two other things to include here: First, changing amounts of water in the water cycle affects air pressure, which affects air flow, which in turn affects the weather patterns around the world. Second, warmer weather means more evaporation everywhere, not just over water, so more evaporation occurs even where there is little water. This means that already dryer climates (both hot deserts and cold deserts – yes there are both) experience even more water evaporation so become ever dryer still, resulting in longer and even drier droughts.

Why does warmer water matter? There are a couple of points to ponder: Animals and plants have developed over centuries to live in certain climates (temperatures) – that is to say adapted to live within certain temperature ranges. Humans, like other mammals, can regulate their body temperatures but not all animals can do that – not all marine life can do that. For example, shell fish die if the water temperature gets too hot or too cold. As the sea water temperature rises, it will change the habitat for marine life. This change is happening too fast for species to adapt and they will not be able to live in the warmer water. Whole species of marine life will become extinct, even if the water temperature is only 1.5 C degrees warmer.

I share excerpts from 2 news releases from January 15 2020 for you to ponder: From the World Meteorological Organization Office, "Averaged across the five data sets used in the consolidated analysis, the annual global temperature in 2019 was 1.1°C warmer than the average for 1850-1900, used to represent pre-industrial conditions." Full article can be found at <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/wmo-confirms-2019-second-hottest-year-record> From NASA, "According to independent analyses by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Earth's global surface temperatures in 2019 were the second warmest since modern recordkeeping began in 1880. Globally, 2019 temperatures were second only to those of 2016 and continued the planet's long-term warming trend: the past five years have been the warmest of the last 140 years. This past year, they were 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (0.98 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 1951 to 1980 mean, according to scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York. 'The decade that just ended is clearly the warmest decade on record,' said GISS Director Gavin Schmidt. 'Every decade since the 1960s clearly has been warmer than the one before.' Since the 1880s, the average global surface temperature has risen and the average temperature is now more than 2 degrees Fahrenheit (a bit more than 1 degree Celsius) above that of the late 19th century. For reference, the last Ice Age was about 10 degrees Fahrenheit colder than pre-industrial temperatures.

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-noaa-analyses-reveal-2019-second-warmest-year-on-record>

Submitted by Tamsin Lucey

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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**

Save These Dates

Sunday, February 2—11:00 a.m.—Souperbowl Soup Sale

Wednesday, February 5—6:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine Study—BLC

Wednesday, February 12—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Sunday, February 16—9:30 a.m.—Healing Service

Wednesday, February 5—6:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine Study—BLC

Tuesday, February 25—5:30 p.m.—Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 26—12:00 Noon—Holy Eucharist &

Imposition of Ashes

7:00 p.m.—Holy Eucharist &

Imposition of Ashes



Website



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Tithely—Giving