



OCTOBER TIDINGS

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Hello friends!!!

October is on the cusp which turns us, in delight, to the riches of creation!! If you frequent the “Chinese language channels” you will be aware that the “August Moon Festival” just occurred with the full moon of September 21st. My resident Chinese historical scholar tells me that the custom of sharing cakes of lotus-seed paste and salted egg yolks encased in a firm dough was a celebration of the first fruits of the labors in the field. But not just a delight in the fruiting gifts of creation, the action took on new significance in the 600’s. A foolish ruler was harming the common good, and the people planned an insurrection. The revolt was coordinated with messages hidden in the cakes that neighbors

were binging to each other’s front doors! There is a scripture that states we are to have the awareness and focus “to bring out of our wineskins things that are both old and new” at the same time. So did the Chinese, when they repurposed ancient traditions to contain an essential new message.

This October is a time for renewed exploration of what we can do to communicate the urgency of changing old behaviors and protecting the creation. We will delight in the dogs, cats, horses, emus, giraffes, and all else who can be brought for blessing on October 3rd (St. Francis-Sunday). It is good to play in the house of the Lord, but there is an additional level of meaning and insight to be garnered while we share that

which is joyful. We need to accompany “delight” with commitment to work to keep safe what God has made and continues to bless. Today may be the last day the 2,000 year old sequoia in California will remain alive and standing. The fragile precipice has been reached. We must not allow any more foot-dragging. Writing to our Congress be the only weapon we can bring to this fight, but do bring the Diocesan webpage. Please explore for teaching on the sanctity of creation and the efforts we can employ to guard and defend.

As the seasons turn, we are grateful for what God has wrought. Let us stand and make call to action.

In the peace of Christ,
(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore

Thank You from our Sexton

Dear Holy Trinity Parishioners,

On behalf of my family thank you all so much for the generous donations! We never expected anything like this and we are so grateful. Over the years I have worked for Holy Trinity mostly late at night so I don't get to meet everyone, I know some but not all. I take pride in caring for the church for all of you to enjoy and hope to continue for years to come. We are blessed to be a part of such a kind and generous church community. We wish you all health, happiness, and love.

Greg, Sunni, Evan, and Cameron

Mission Plate for September & October

The Mission Plate funds for the months of September and October will be going to "Episcopal Relief & Development." Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. ERD has been around for more than 75 years and today reaches three million people worldwide annually. ERD works in the United States and with partners worldwide to alleviate hunger, create economic opportunities, respond to disasters, promote health and strengthen communities. It has three key program priorities: women, children, and climate.

Sincerely, Susan L. Grant, Member of the Outreach and Missions Committee

October Birthdays

- 3—Peg Nelson
- 4 – Will Pieczynski
- 7 – Chris Briere
- 17 – Nina Signore
- 18—Anita Bullard
- 18—Eric Bullard
- 19—Jean Frost
- 24—Marilyn Theodoss
- 31 – Joseph Ballou



Adult Social Studies Update

The Social Studies Group will not be meeting this Fall. This is to allow full attention to be given to the clergy transition that is taking place.

For any questions about the class, please free to contact Lynn Garland, 508-801-4638

lynn24gar@gmail.com

Facebook Live Update

A committee met to discuss continuing with Facebook live. The discussion started by answering the question: Why should we continue? Would it be for our parish members or evangelism and reaching new members. The consensus was that it is most important to minister to our parish. With more COVID variants coming, some people may not feel safe coming into the sanctuary even if in-person worship continues to be available.

The committee decided to make some important changes in how the Facebook service will be done. The focus of the service will be on the people who are present. The camera will be moved to the rear of the church so it won't be intrusive to those worshipping in person. The view will be at more of a distance, observing the full service, seeing parishioners as well as what's happening at the altar.

Other important changes are that we will start streaming to Facebook before the service begins and it will not be monitored during the service. If the internet is interrupted and the service stops streaming, it probably will not return. The links to prayers will not be added during the service. This is because, if the system goes down, it's a problem with Facebook and we can't fix that.

You may wonder why the Facebook Live format won't also serve to reach out to others.

It takes many ministries to make our worship services flow seamlessly. As our parish is small, many parishioners serve on more than one ministry. HTC has many dedicated parishioners who serve on the following ministries: altar guild, ushers, readers, eucharistic ministers, and hospitality. To start an active on-line outreach we would have to have a volunteer actively interacting with people on-line during the service. And that person has to have IT skills. With our resources already stretched to maximum capacity, we realized we do not have the resources for this.

We welcome you to try out the on-line service. When you do, please continue to use the comment option. Even though you may not receive a response at the time, we will check afterwards and will know you were there.



Journey of Clergy Transition from Senior Warden

As most of you know, Fr Richard will be retiring at the end of December. We have been truly blessed to have him with us for this long. It is very important that we make the most of our remaining time and celebrate our shared journey.

At the same time, it is important that we also look forward to finding clergy support so that we have a smooth transition. The diocese recommends that we work with an interim priest before calling a new rector. The job of an interim priest is to help us discern what God is calling us to next.

This is especially important now as the structure and form of the church is clearly changing. Parishes are smaller and less able to support a full-time priest. Many small parishes are choosing to merge or to stay separate but share a full-time priest. So part of our discernment will be whether to remain independent, as we are, or to share resources in some way with another congregation.

We are very fortunate that there is a highly qualified interim priest who just moved to Southbridge and is looking for part-time interim work starting in January. The diocese moved quickly to make the introductions. On Wednesday, September 22, the vestry met with the Reverend Mother Judith Lee.

The meeting went very well. Mother Judith Lee is very interested in serving as our interim for a term that could last beyond two years. Vestry members were unanimous in agreement that she would be a very good match for us. She comes with a good understanding of our current ministries and ways to actively support them. We have let the diocese know that we would like to pursue this relationship.

We will keep everyone informed as we learn more.

Lynn Garland
Senior Warden

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**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**



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