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**Lynn Garland—Sr. Warden**  
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# SEPTEMBER TIDINGS

Volume 3, Issue 9



Dear Friends,

September always brings a renewal for parish communities.

It is even more of an interesting puzzle as we back-peddle from the freedoms we believed the Covid vaccine had bought us, and relearn behaviors (face masks, social distancing, conversations at a 'relaxed proximity' or outdoors) that are responsive to the subtle new challenges the Delta variants have brought us. This is exactly how the parish community can live into the tasks of "first importance" when it is possible for us to gather.

We gather to make example of our faith, that even when there are dangers about the edges, the importance of mov-



ing through this world in "supportive community" is central to our proclamation: to learn to journey together is to show the power at work in the world to reconcile people even over different points of need or stress. September's "new beginnings" are all about how we transmit to a new generation, the values and actions we hold, in perpetuity, that our Godly life is realized within the web of human service and in gratitude to God who invigorates these gifts; these "states of grace."

How we handle Covid, at its heart, reveals how we believe about Jesus the incarnate Lord. All safety procedures are observed so we can enjoy these gifts; and deeply in our own souls

September 2021



we know that our well-being is tied into the place where we gather, and how we learn of God's leading as we find our love for one another. God was, in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself; even as us to each other. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 is worth a look; but it says "community is how God works growth and new life in us." This is why we meet; and it is the message we have to pass on. May God continue to bless and hold you; In peace and health. I remain, yours in Christ,

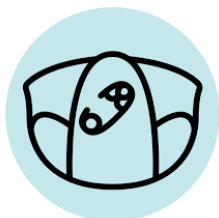
(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore



## Diaper Donation: Welcoming Baby Nikolla

We are thrilled to announce that our sexton, Greg Nikolla and his wife, Sunni, welcomed a baby boy Cameron. Greg is a special part of this parish family, and he plans to stay with us for quite a while. Lots of diapers are a necessity during those newborn stages. We would like to take up a collection to buy a gift card for diapers. Checks can be made to Holy Trinity Church with "Baby Nikolla" in the memo. (Put in the collection plate or mail to: 446 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550. ) If you would like to give online through Tithely choose "special offering" and put "Baby Nikolla" in the memo.

**Donations can be made up until September 19th**



## Stewardship: Volunteers Wanted

The stewardship Team is looking for volunteers to share their story during our stewardship campaign. What is the story of your gift? How will your blessing be a blessing to others? This is the spirit behind our theme of Every Perfect Gift. If you are inspired by any of the weekly themes that are listed below, please volunteer to share.

Sept 19, 2021 - Gift of Praise  
 Sept 26, 2021 – Gift of Relationships  
 Oct 3, 2021 – Gift of Wonder  
 Oct 10, 2021 – Gift of Sharing  
 Oct 17, 2021 – Gift of Helping a Stranger  
 Oct 24, 2021 – Gift of Faith  
 Oct 31, 2021 – Gift of Love in Action  
 Nov 7, 2021 – All Saints Sunday  
 Nov 14, 2021 – Gift of Worship  
 Nov 21, 2021 – Gift of Relationship

The weekly themes highlight all the ways in which we have been blessed by God and how that inspires others to give back to our neighbors, our church, and the world

Contact Nancy Waugh or Lynn Garland if any of these weekly themes speak to you.

## September Birthdays

4 – Bart Krug  
 13—Barbara Galli  
 27—Rose Reith



## Adult Social Studies Group

The Social Studies Group will reconvene in October instead of September. The delay is due to activities around the Clergy Transition, which will likely conflict with our usual meeting date. We expect the date will be October 20 but final plans will be confirmed in the October Tidings .

For any questions about the class, please free to contact Lynn Garland, 508-801-4638 [lynn24gar@gmail.com](mailto:lynn24gar@gmail.com)

## A Message from the Wardens

By now everyone should have received Fr. Richard's retirement letter and the warden's follow-up letter. We are pleased to say, as mentioned in the letter, that the wardens met with Rev. Judith Lee on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The next step is for the vestry to meet with Canon Rich Simpson at the September 8<sup>th</sup> vestry meeting. Then, if the partnership with Rev. Judith is agreeable to the vestry she would like to meet with the vestry before the October vestry meeting.

Please keep Fr. Richard and the transition process in your prayers.

Blessings,

Lynn and Susan

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## Daughters of the King Update : Presentation on Liberia

On August 15th, our church was graced with a presentation by Julia Duncan-Cassell. Julia is a member of the Episcopal Church in Buchanan, Liberia and is president of her local chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the King (SDOK).

Julia spoke first-hand about the political coup followed by the violent civil war, Ebola, and now Covid 19 and their devastating effects on the people of Liberia. The Delta variant of Covid 19 is hitting the Liberian people hard; many are very ill and are dying. Vaccines are not fully and widely available. Consequently, less than 1 % of the population has been vaccinated. All of these events have led to a downward spiral of the Liberian nation.

Julia spoke heart-wrenchingly about the victimization of young girls and teens. Currently, poverty is so bad in Liberia that girls as young as ten are being sold as "child brides". These girls are very often abandoned with their young children without any means of survival.

The Episcopal Church of Liberia has built schools which not only provide an education but also food, necessities and protection for these children. The SDOK's mission work within the Church is to educate girls in self-empowerment to help break this cycle of victimization. Boys are educated in the importance of respect and support for women and girls.

It is very important that we support the children and families of Liberia during this critical time. We (the Daughters of the King) are requesting that you donate face masks, antiseptic wipes, liquid hand soap, toiletries, etc. In addition, we are still collecting school supplies and children's clothing, as part of our on-going mission. Donated items may be dropped off on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the office between 9:00 and noon. We are also seeking contributions towards the cost of shipping these items to Liberia. You may donate by check or through Tithely. Please donate what you can; every item helps!! Please continue to keep these families in your prayers.

Sincerely, Susan L. Grant

President of the Mary and Martha Chapter of the Daughters



## 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 over 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.

The organization's work with women focuses on helping communities promote the rights of women and children to move toward the vision that everyone deserves a life free from violence where they are treated with dignity and respect. ERD works with partners worldwide to create programs through microfinance, which empower women to earn an income. These programs help ensure that families can provide food, health care and education for their children. ERD's work with children supports and protects kids so they reach appropriate health and developmental milestones. In many countries around the world, pregnant women, mothers and children are most at-risk of contracting deadly and preventable diseases because they lack access to health care. E.R.D. trains local health workers in prenatal and postnatal care, and prevention of pneumonia, malaria, etc. (through immunizations and nets), etc. Their programs also provide access to clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene education, and help with early identification and treatment of illnesses. In their work to create clean and safe drinking water, they build wells and piping systems, install water stations and rainwater catchment tanks.

Episcopal Relief & Development's climate related work focuses on how families and communities can work together to adapt to the efforts of rapidly changing weather patterns. This work includes proactive training on climate-smart agriculture, planting trees, and ensuring enough healthy foods by supporting small-scale and family farms with tools and seeds.

ERD's work includes preparing for and recovering from climate-influenced events such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and other disasters and emergencies. This includes the organization's response to the deadly earthquakes in Haiti, the several major hurricanes to hit the U.S and the Caribbean and the wildfires in California now and in recent years. Their disaster programs help people prepare for and respond to crises through the coordination and training of local partners in their communities. For example, currently "Street Pastors" in California are helping to relocate evacuees from the wildfires to proper shelters. Through their partners, they remain long after the crises are over to help communities heal, recover, and rebuild long-term.

Episcopal Relief & Development works both in the United States and abroad. ERD's mandate comes from Jesus's words found in Matthew 25:

Lord, when was it that:

We saw you go hungry and gave you food?

We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?

We saw you a stranger and welcomed you?

We saw you sick and took care of you?

We saw you in prison and visited you?

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Please give from your heart and give all that you can!

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

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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**



Website



Facebook



Tithe—Giving