



# FEBRUARY TIDINGS

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*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*[Matthew 5:14]*

On the first Sunday of this month we will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, also known as Candlemas, transferred from on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. On this day we mark 40 days after Christmas, when Jesus was presented at the temple and both Simeon and Anna recognized him as the Messiah. Traditionally, it is called Candlemas Day, when candles that will be used in our homes through the coming year are blessed. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, we will bless the candles at our altar in addition to battery-powered candles that will be available for each of our households, along with a prayer of blessing for our homes. Steven Charleston, a retired Episcopal bishop and Chocktaw elder, offers what is for me the most powerful image of what it

means for us to be a community sharing the Light of Christ: *Imagine you walked onto a large open field at night when there was no moon. Standing there silently in the darkness were hundreds of people, each holding an unlit candle. Only you were carrying a candle that was burning, a single light alone. How quickly would the field be glowing once you used your candle to light others and they used their candles to do the same, and all the people began sharing their light with those around them? You may never know exactly, but you do know over time what the outcome will be: a field aglow in the darkness where people can see one another clearly: Your life matters. What you have started will carry on. You are a source of light. You help others in ways that will*

*continue. You are a single candle, but you are stronger than darkness. . . [Steven Charleston, Ladder to the Light, p. 12]*

This is not the description of a group indulging in fantasy, or intent on cementing its right to dictate what is true and what is not. It is not the description of a group that condemns to eternal darkness those who have very different views of what is true. It is not the description of a group that is either complacent in the face of injustice or afraid of the dark. It is the description of a group that embraces hope together, even after long and varied journeys. It is the description of a group of people who are grateful for the presence of their trusted companions. We pray for the grace to see our own candle's flame.

*Continued.....*

## *Continued....*

We pray for the grace to stop waiting for someone else to light our candle.

We pray for the grace to discover companions we have not noticed.

We pray for the grace to say—and to hear—this whispered assurance: *What you have started will carry on. You are a source of light. You help others in ways that will continue. You are a single candle, but you are stronger than darkness. . . .*

-Judith

## **The Bishop's Visitation**

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. [Luke 4:18]*

On Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> we will welcome Bishop Fisher to Holy Trinity.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to affirm our faith together.

I would like to talk with adults and youth who would like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church during this service. Whether or not we have a formal "confirmation class," we will have several different opportunities to prepare for an affirmation of faith. We will also have a class on Holy Communion designed for our younger children. Please contact me at [jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com) or by phone at 716.949.8194 so that we talk together about what will be most meaningful for this exciting moment in the spiritual journey we share.



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

## **Sponsor Child Signup for 2022**

The sign-up sheet has been placed on the back table of the church to help support Nicholas Onyango Okondo. Please consider supporting this important ministry by signing up to sponsor Nicholas for a month (or two) in 2022. The sponsorship is **\$35.00 per month**. A postcard will be emailed to you as a reminder that your donation is due. Thank you! Please make sure you note "Sponsor Child" on your check. You can also donate through Tithely.

## January & February Mission Plate

The Mission Plate funds for the months of January and February will be going to the Worcester Community Action Council's Fuel Assistance Program. This program aids limited-income homeowners and renters in paying their home heating bills. WCAC's Fuel Assistance Program serves all of our local communities (cities and towns) within Central Massachusetts. Nearly 12,000 households obtained fuel assistance through WCAC last year.

Susan Grant,  
Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee

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## Daughters Of the King: Update on the Liberian Project

We are an incredibly generous parish. The Daughters have packed two large barrels and a large plastic tote full of supplies ready to be shipped to Liberia. However, what we are lacking now is sufficient monetary donations to be able to ship these supplies to their destination. We would appreciate it if you could donate funds towards the shipping costs so, we can send these supplies to the people who need them. Please, give what you can so we will be able to ship these needed supplies to their awaiting families. Thank you.

Susan Grant,  
President of the Mary and Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King

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## Educational Grant Opportunity

The Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants are offered through the diocese for education expenses. Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants help young people who are active in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts to pursue their educational goals after secondary school. Grants may be used at accredited training and technical institutions as well as for undergraduate study at 2 and 4 year accredited colleges. These awards represent an investment by the Church in its young people. The goal of the Committee is to provide some support to as many of the applicants as possible. The maximum award at this time is \$1,500.

Information and application available here:

<https://www.diocesewma.org/grant-opportunities/bement-grants-bement-waterfield-educational-grants/>

The deadline for submission is March 1, 2022

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## Faith Formation

Recently, I had the opportunity to take a short online seminar entitled *Basics of Faith Formation*". Sponsored by the Virginia Seminary LifeLong Learning Institute, this seminar was an introduction to a theoretical framework for faith formation. It also happens to be a topic near and dear to my heart as a parent, a teacher and a spiritual human. I'd like to share a few key points that I learned:

- Spirituality is innate: We are born with it, it is our BIRTHRIGHT.
- The first decade of our lives is powerful - spirituality can be encouraged or discouraged.
- Spirituality is DRAWN out, it is a seed to be tended. Rather than thinking of a child as a blank slate, we must remember that we are not empty vessels waiting to be filled. This brought me to tears! To know that GOD has already put everything we need for faith formation within every person born is the ultimate gift.
- This idea leads to more child-led programming, allows the space for teens to ask the HARD questions and then gives them space to explore and return.
- The practice of the faith, of Christianity, is in the COMMUNITY. Faith formation can only happen in the context of community!

There's much more to discuss on this lifelong journey of faith formation. I'd invite anyone interested in learning more to check out [Buildingfaith.org](http://Buildingfaith.org). They have dedicated resources for faith formation.

Looking forward to learning in a community alongside each and every one of you.

Eileen DeMings

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## The Fitzpatrick Fund Scholarship

The Fitzpatrick Fund is a memorial to Royce Fitzpatrick Jr. and his mother, Loretta P. Fitzpatrick.

Scholarships are given to a worthy young person, who is a member of Holy Trinity Church to be used toward the purchase of textbooks and/or learning materials, including electronic devices, and used in an institution of academic or vocational learning after secondary school.

Criteria for this award are church membership, need, good character and the desire to better oneself and begin anew, not necessarily previous standards of scholarship.

The Fitzpatrick family wishes the recipient perseverance, faith and the joy of learning in any goal of learning after secondary school.

To apply send a letter addressing the above criteria, the school you will be attending and school year. Send to the Priest and wardens:

The Rev. Judith Lee: [jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)

Lynn Garland, Sr. Warden: [lynn24gar@gmail.com](mailto:lynn24gar@gmail.com)

Susan Howland, Jr. Warden: [howlands@charter.net](mailto:howlands@charter.net)

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(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Services**

**9:30 a.m. Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist**

**Mother Judith Lee**

***Priest in Charge***



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving