



DECEMBER TIDINGS

Volume 4, Issue 12

December 2022

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-765-9559

holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com
www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

The Rev. Judith Lee
Priest in Charge
jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com

Lynn Garland- Sr. Warden
(508-801-4638)



A Reflection by your Priest –in –Charge

*I wonder, as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior had come for to die
For poor orn'ry creatures like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

Inside This Issue

Priest's Reflection	1
Blue Shades Concert	2
UTO	2
Prayer Shawls	2
December Birthdays	2
Spiritual Formation	3
Children & Youth	4
Vestry Highlights	4
Convention Report	5
Christmas Memorial	6
Greening the Church	7
Winter Parking	7
Mission Plate	8
December Worship	8



These words have been running through my mind as Advent begins this year. Their haunting mix of wonder and longing captures for me the meaning of this season. The history of the song shows that we never know the wondrous effects of our smallest acts and our chance encounters.

The carol has its origins in a song fragment collected in 1933 by folklorist John Jacob Niles. While in the town of Murphy in North Carolina, Niles attended a fundraising meeting held by evangelicals who had been ordered out of town by the police. He wrote of hearing the song:

A girl had stepped out to the edge of the little platform attached to the automobile. She began to sing. Her clothes were unbelievably dirty and ragged, and she, too, was unwashed. Her ash-blond hair hung down in long skeins.... But, best of all, she was beautiful, and in her untutored way, she could sing. She smiled as she sang, smiled rather sadly, and sang only a single line of a song.

The girl, Annie Morgan, repeated the fragment seven times in exchange for a quarter per performance. Based on this fragment, Niles composed the version of *I Wonder as I Wander* that is known today, extending the melody to four lines and the lyrics to three stanzas.

I wonder . . .

What grace—and longing—do we share with the young girl who sang 89 years ago for less than two dollars in a town most of us have never heard of?

I wonder . . .

How we can ignore a God who has promised to be revealed in the obscure and untended “stables” of our lives, a God who has promised us a star to guide us no matter how dark the night in which we wander

I wonder . . .

How we, orn’ry” creatures that we are, can give ourselves permission to wonder as we wander during the coming weeks.

Mother Judith

Join Us!

Holy Trinity will host a **Holiday Concert**

The Blue Shades Clarinets

Sunday, December 11 ~ 2:00 PM

The Blue Shades Clarinets will present a concert of holiday music and other classics here at Holy Trinity on Sunday, December 11 at 2 pm. Please save the date on your calendar. Bring your family and friends!! Refreshments will be served after the concert.

A Free Will Offering will be designated for Rosilda's Kitchen at the First Methodist Church of Southbridge to support their weekly meal program.

Established in 2015 and based in Norwell, Blue Shades Clarinets performs a wide-ranging repertoire arranged for clarinet choir, including American jazz, ragtime and light classics. They have performed throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and as part of the Brockton Symphony Orchestra's Chamber Concert series. The members of the Blue Shades Clarinets also perform regularly with the Brockton Symphony, the Rivers Symphony, and the Metropolitan Wind Symphony.

Parish participation will help make the concert a success. If you are able to assist with the reception please contact Sue Grant or Joe DiSalvatore at 617-875-5741, or leave a message at the office.

We are grateful to Cornerstone Bank of Southbridge and Savers Bank of Southbridge for their generous sponsorship of this concert.



Don't forget: Prayer Shawls are available at the back of the church for anyone who might welcome extra comfort and prayers during this season.

UNITED THANK OFFERING



If you are old or new to Holy Trinity Church, I want to share that the United Thank Offering is a program of the Episcopal Church that focuses on gratitude. The coins that we drop into the "Blue Box" with a prayer of thanks are gathered together with other coins from around the world and are then shared to expand the mission of the church, and help people worldwide who are in need. The coins become a symbol of our thankfulness, which can then be spread in a very meaningful way. Our 2022 UTO ingathering of **\$1,042.69** was presented at the diocesan convention on November 5th to join with other offerings from the diocese. Thank you! And Thanks Be to God!

Susan Howland, UTO Parish Coordinator



BIRTHDAYS

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



Spiritual Formation: Children and Youth

First Sunday: December 4th

9:30 am Family Worship

11:00am –Noon Teens will meet to plan for a discussion of Confirmation and planning for the Epiphany celebration, projects for the new year

Third Sunday: December 18th

9:15 Children's Chapel in the Chapel

9:30-10 Discussion downstairs: 2 groups: ages 4-9 & 10-12

11am Greening the Church



Christmas Eve Family Service @ 4:00 pm

Epiphany Celebration Friday January 6th 5:30-8:00 pm

Beginning in January, Children's Chapel will change to the 2nd Sunday:

January 8th, February 12th, March 12th

Teens Service Project

**The Teens will lead our monthly collection and distribution of food to Catholic Charities.
Watch for more information.**

Vestry Highlights: November 9, 2022

Resolved

Approved Licensed Liturgical Ministers for 2023

Approved purchase of wooden lattice fencing for the side of the building

Accepted Lynn Garland's gift designated for a new bench to be on the sidewalk in front of the church

Accepted a memorial gift in memory of Mary Hicks, to be designated for new green altar hangings, Lorraine Brumskine's preparation for ordination to the vocational diaconate, and the Legacy Fund

Memorial gifts in memory of Roy Baum are designated for new green vestments

Approved a change in Vestry schedule to 1st Wednesdays beginning in January 2023

Designated January 29, 2023 for the Annual Parish Meeting

Discussion

Debriefing: Stewardship Breakfast, Teens Fundraiser for American Cancer Society

Updates: Girl Scouts Operation Christmas Child & Advent Wreathmaking Workshop; Community Thanksgiving Service; Blue Shades Holiday Concert; Greening of the Church (December 18th-- along with Advent Lessons & Carols)

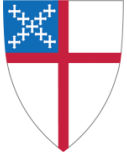
Planning: Storage spaces in the Undercroft

Planning: Resume food collection for Food Share

Planning: Vestry elections in January 2023

Diocesan Convention Report

Convention Theme: *Sing a New Song*



The day started with Eucharist and the Bishop's address.

The bishop framed his address using two Bruce Springsteen songs *This is Radio Nowhere* and *The Rising*.

This is Radio Nowhere: "Is there anyone alive out there? I was spinning around a dead dial. Just another lost number in a file. Dancing down a dark hole Just searching for a world with some soul."

The Rising was written after 9/11 and starts off with a firefighter going up the stairs:

Can't see nothing in front of me. Can't see nothing come up behind. I make my way through this darkness.

Come on up for the Rising. Come on up lay your hands in mine. Come on up for the rising. Come on up for the rising tonight. I see you Mary in the garden. In the garden of a thousand sighs. There's holy pictures of our children Dancing in a sky filled with light. May I feel your arms around me. May I feel your blood mix with mine. A dream of life comes to me.

Bishop Fisher asks, "How can we get from "Radio Nowhere" to "The Rising?" How will God working in us get "The Rising" to be our song?

Bishop Fisher suggested that gratitude to God was a good place to start. He said, "It is amazing what gratitude can do: Gratitude frees us from fear. Releases us from anxiety. It emboldens us to do more than we could ever imagine."

What would happen if we started every vestry meeting, every diocesan meeting going around the room asking for expressions of gratitude.

He said that more times than Jesus said, "love one another," he said, "stay awake," "look," "see."

He spent the rest of his address talking about what he sees happening around the diocese. You can read it here: <https://blog.diocesewma.org/2022/11/05/from-radio-nowhere-to-the-rising/>

In closing he pondered: If our diocese had a patron saint who would it be? He offered for our consideration - Mary Magdalene. He said, "*Mary loved Jesus. We love Jesus; and when he died a terrible death, she stayed faithful, stayed faithful at the cross.*"

Other Convention Highlights

Bishop Fisher and Rev. Tanya Wallace reported on the shortened General Convention 2022, which they said was grounded in "The Way of Love".

We elected members of the diocesan Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and some other committees and boards (all uncontested).

We elected lay and clergy deputies and alternates to general convention 2024. The next Presiding Bishop will be elected in 2024 at General Convention by the House of Deputies and House of Bishops.

We heard a budget presentation and voted the budget.

We celebrated and blessed the 10th anniversary of consecration of Bishop Fisher.

Throughout the day special order videos were shown:

Good News Gardens

Lawrence House, a young adult intentional community.

Walking Together: Urban Mission in Worcester

Global Missions: Tanzania, Dominican Republic

Swords to Plowshares: melting guns and forging them into garden tools

Human to Human: a collection of Diocesan missions with direct "person to person" contact.

And an in-person message from Rev. Betsy Fisher about *Change the Babies* mission to the Mampong Babies Home in our companion diocese Kumasi, Ghana.

Christmas Memorials

During Christmas services this year, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for the blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office **by Sunday, December 18**. 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 some 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 for 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 18**. 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:**



Greening the Church

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

Sunday, December 18

11:00 a.m. — 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.



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.

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland.

[Isaiah 43:19]



Mission Plate for December

The Mission Plate funds for December will go to the Mampong Babies Home. The home, located in Mampong, Ghana was established 55 years ago (in 1967) by Sisters of The Order of the Holy Paraclete, after they observed that many babies were abandoned at the maternity hospital because their mothers had died in childbirth and their fathers and extended families were unable to bring those babies home to be properly cared for. The Home has a 50-bed capacity for children, aged 0-12 years old at any given time. Children are brought to the Mampong Babies Home as a result of various health and social-economic circumstances which include, but are not limited to abandonment, neglect, and severe poverty. We are grateful for your generosity of heart and spirit, as we all continue to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

In love,
Lorraine Brumskine



December Worship

December 4 Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Family worship: Youth will lead the service
Commissioning of Liturgical Ministers for the new year
- 11am—noon Teens meeting downstairs: Confirmation
- 11am Choir Rehearsal
- Noon Hospitality Planning meeting

December 11 Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:30am Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 am Choir Rehearsal
- 2 pm – Blue Shades Clarinets Holiday Concert followed by a reception

December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:15am Children's Chapel
- 9:30am Advent Lessons & Carols
- 11:00 am Greening of the Church after the service

Christmas Eve: 4 pm Family Service with Carols

December 25 Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

- 9:30 am Service of Holy Eucharist w/carols



Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Holy Trinity Church

446 Hamilton Street

Southbridge, MA 01550

Office Phone: (508) 765-9559

E-mail: holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com

Web site: holytrinitysouthbridge.org
(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Priest –in-Charge
The Reverend Judith Lee**



Website



Facebook



Tithe.ly—Giving