



# JANUARY TIDINGS

Volume 5 Issue 1

January 2023

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## A Reflection from your Priest-In-Charge

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. [Isaiah 60:1]*

### Inside this issue:

Priest's Reflection	1
Mission Plate	2
Coat Closet Thanks	2
January Birthdays	2
Annual Report Deadline	2
Mampong Babies Home	3
Adult Formation	4
HTC Reading Group	4
Vestry Highlights	4
Spiritual Formation	5
Supporting Ukraine	5
Annual Meeting	6
Inclement Weather Plan	6
Food Pantry Collection	7
Stewardship	7
Sundays in January	8

The journey of the magi is one of the first stories that we learn as children. It's an adventure story, a story of wonder and resilience, of boldness and humility.

It resonates especially this year—in part, perhaps, because the next stage of your own journey toward new ministry will begin this year.

Many of you have been through numerous transitions; each one is unique and requires a radical openness to the Holy Spirit. This year, our transition will continue in four stages:

1. You will take a survey called the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT), which is used by all congregations who are in transition in this diocese. It is an excellent tool for clarifying your core charisms & beliefs, identifying what resources you have and what you will need. Your vestry will discuss this tool at their meeting on January 4th, and it

will be introduced to you at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 29th. You will take this survey during the month of February, and Canon Simpson will discuss the results with your Vestry on March 11th.

2. In a series of small group discussions facilitated by members of the vestry, you will share these results and define your core mission. Then you will discuss a second question: Is this building essential or a hindrance to your ministry? If it is essential, what resources are necessary to maintain it as a center of ministry and how will you develop and manage those resources? If it is a hindrance, what are your other options for fulfilling the mission to which God calls you?

3. As part of this conversation, and following it,

your vestry will explore the wide range of models for ministry in our diocese, especially by congregations who have called part-time clergy.

4. When you have discerned your goals and model for ministry, you will be ready to prepare to call a new priest. I anticipate that this process will begin at the end of 2023 and continue into 2024.

There is no need to rush. We will continue at a steady pace. Like the journey of the magi, ours is guided by a Light we can trust. Our journey, too, will bring us to unexplored paths and unexpected signs of God's presence. And we too may know where and why we are going, but with no idea what our destination will look like.

I am so very grateful to share this journey with you.

*Mother Judith+*

## January & February Mission Plate

The Mission Plate funds for the months of January and February will be going to the Worcester Community Action 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. Well over 10,000 households obtained fuel assistance through WCAC last year.

This year's economic picture for many of our vulnerable local families isn't any brighter than last year. With the devastating effects of the tripledemic (Covid, Flu, and RSV), rising housing and food costs and escalating utility and heating costs, many people in our local area are struggling to afford to keep themselves warm this winter.

Please, give as generously as you can to this program. No one should be left in the cold during this time of crisis. Thank you.

Susan Grant,

Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee

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## Coat Closet Update

We had another successful year for the Ecumenical Coat Closet, which ended on December 17th. This ministry is a combined effort supported by several churches in the area. Holy Trinity provides the space, and volunteers from our church and other churches work together to provide warm winter coats for anyone who needs one.

While we are officially closed, we have many coats still left for men, women and children. We are able to open by appointment. So if any parish members need a coat or know someone who does, please call the office 508-765-9559 or email [holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)

*Thank you!*

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# January

## BIRTHDAYS

3— Harry Theodoss  
12— Dan Macumber



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## Annual Report Deadline

If you contribute to the Annual Report, please know that this is the time to write your piece! It takes some time to compile, format, print and collate this report. We would like to have it available for parishioners to review on January 15, therefore.... All reports are due to the Parish Administrative Assistant **BEFORE January 10.**

## Sponsoring Mampong Babies

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*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]*

### **Shifting from Childreach sponsor child to Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana.**

Our sponsor child, Nicholas, turned 18 on November 22, 2022! We started sponsoring Nicholas through Childreach (PLAN) in 2012 when he was 8 years old and at 18 he “graduated” from the Childreach Program. Rather than ask for another child to sponsor the vestry approved moving our monthly sponsorship to the Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana.

Our diocese has had a companion relationship with the diocese of Kumasi, Ghana since 2008. Bishop and Rebecca Scruton, Bishop Doug and Besty Fisher, Rev. Annie Ryder and others have visited the diocese and in particular the Mampong Babies Home.

In 2014 Rev. Betsy Fisher started the “Change the Babies” ministry to support the Mampong Babies Home. Lana was at the diocesan convention that year and brought the idea back to Holy Trinity and we have been collecting money in the “BIG Bottle” ever since.

In January you will see a new monthly sign-up sheet to sponsor the Babies Home. The sponsorship money along with whatever is put in the Big Bottle will go to Change the Babies ministry/ Mampong Babies Home.

We will keep the parish updated on the Babies Home with articles in Tidings.

*A little about Mampong Babies Home ...*



Mampong Babies Home cares for about 50 children and specializes in taking in infants whose mothers have died in childbirth or shortly after. They are able to provide good care for the babies who otherwise would often not survive. They maintain communication with the families of origin and try to reunite the babies with relatives as soon as it is practical and safe. They also take care of abandoned children.

Epiphany Blessings,

Susan Howland

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## Adult Spiritual Formation

*Faith Formation Steering Committee:* Eileen DeMings (Chair), Heather Bousquet, Lorraine Brumskine, John Grant, Susan Grant, Cat Reith-Lowery, Rose Reith, and Robin Yates

### Practicing our Faith: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ 7pm

January 5	Chapter 17 & 18	The Church: Ecclesiology; Structure & Governance
January 19	Chapters 19 & 20	The Church: The Communion of Saints; Vocation
February 2	Chapter 21	Theology: The Trinity: The Creator
February 16	Chapter 22	Christology: The Incarnation
March 2	Chapter 23	Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit
March 16	Chapter 24	Finding Spiritual Practices
March 23	Chapters 25 & 26	Evangelism: Knowing Our Story; Telling Our Story

We will also schedule one or two special “summary” sessions for those who have not been able to take part. Watch for more information.

### HTC Reading Group: Discussion on Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5 pm

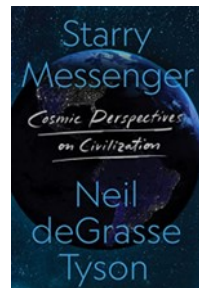
January, 2023

Neil deGrasse Tyson, *Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization*

Henry Holt and Co. (September 20, 2022)

Bringing his cosmic perspective to civilization on earth, Neil deGrasse Tyson shines new light on the crucial fault lines of our time—war, politics, religion, truth, beauty, gender, and race—in a way that stimulates a deeper sense of unity for us all. In a time when our political and cultural views feel more polarized than ever, Tyson provides a much-needed antidote to so much of what divides us, while making a passionate case for the twin chariots of enlightenment—a cosmic perspective and the rationality of science. With crystalline prose, *Starry Messenger* walks us through the scientific palette that sees and paints the world differently. From insights on resolving global conflict to reminders of how precious it is to be alive, Tyson reveals, with warmth and eloquence, an array of brilliant and beautiful truths that apply to us all, informed and enlightened by knowledge of our place in the universe.

Neil deGrasse Tyson is an astrophysicist and the director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History.



### Vestry Highlights: December 14, 2022

#### Resolved:

- Approved 2023 Budget & Housing Resolution for Mother Judith
- Authorized a survey for hospitality planning to be overseen by Cat Reith-Lowery
- Resolved to shift our monthly outreach from Childreach to the Mompong Babies Home

#### Discussion:

- A new bench has arrived to replace the one currently on the sidewalk in front of the church, to be set up in the spring.
- The new storage plan for the Undercroft is working well.

#### What have we done well:

- Blue Shades Holiday Concert & reception and the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.

## Spiritual Formation: Children and Youth



**January 8<sup>th</sup>: 9:15 am** Children's Chapel  
**9:30-10:15** Discussion downstairs  
**10:45-11:30** Teens Group in the Undercroft

**Children's Chapel changes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>**

## Family Worship and Teens Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**June 4<sup>th</sup>**



### Supporting UKRAINE

WE are Truly Blessed:

I am totally amazed by the generosity of Parishioners and The Bread Box customers – the donations for apple Cider this Fall were truly amazing. The total collected and already sent to World Central Kitchen for Ukraine is \$489.10. This amount will be DOUBLED by an anonymous donor.

I would like to thank the anonymous donor who contributed \$174.17, to reimburse the church for the balance of the shipping costs for the Medical Supplies that we sent to L'viv in April. Thank you very much.

Thank YOU for Supporting Ukraine in 2022 – YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE. Please contact me if YOU are interested in continuing to Support Ukraine.

FYI—The Bread Box is selling Re-useable Bags (groceries, beach, carry all!) and the proceeds will support World Central Kitchen Ukraine & Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in honor of my grandson and granddaughter.

Please let me know if you would like one.

774 200 4279 or email [abritinusa@gmail.com](mailto:abritinusa@gmail.com)

With every best wish and blessings

Tamsin Lucey, Mother-in-law to a Ukrainian living in Boston.



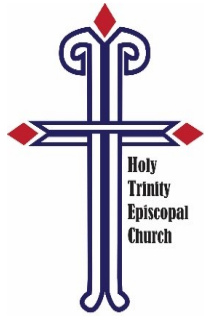
## Praying Hands Ministry

Our Praying Hands Ministry makes prayer shawls and lap blankets anyone in need of prayer and comfort.



for

Mother Judith blessed 6 more shawls in December and more will be blessed in January. There is a basket with blessed prayer shawls at the back of the church. Shawls can be taken for anyone in need of prayer, love, and comfort. A card is attached to write in the person's name. If you would like more information, or wish to request a shawl for a particular person, please email Susan Howland, [howlands@charter.net](mailto:howlands@charter.net), or call/text 508-612-3198.



# ANNUAL MEETING

ALL PARISHIONERS INVITED TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH'S  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

*snow date February 5*

**8:45 AM-9:15 AM** Presentation of the 2023 budget, in the Parish Hall

**9:30 AM** Holy Eucharist incorporating the Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary

**11:00 AM** Conversation & coffee in the Parish Hall

\*Printed annual meeting reports available by request

*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]



## Inclement Weather Plan: Winter 2023

Every Sunday in January and February, weather permitting, we will hold a service of Holy Communion at 9:30am that will be livestreamed on our Facebook Page. Please know that if, due to inclement weather, it is deemed necessary to cancel the service, an announcement will be posted on the Holy Trinity website ([www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org)) and on our Facebook page, and an all-parish email will be sent out. Please consider the road conditions and parking availability when making your own decision to attend the service. We will continue to livestream our service every Sunday on our Facebook page, and the recorded service will be available on our website every week.

Please note that during a snow emergency Hamilton Street is an emergency route and NO parking is allowed on either side.

Parking regulations: alternate side parking on Hamilton Street December 1-April 1:

- At 7:00 pm on odd-numbered days park on the odd side of the street until 7:00 pm the following day.
- At 7:00 pm on even-numbered days park on the even side of the street until 7:00 pm the following day.





## January 2023 - Relaunching Holy Trinity's Food Pantry donations!

Because of covid it has been some time since Holy Trinity has supported St. John Paul II's Food Pantry. I would like to encourage us all to participate in this important ministry once again.

For January, Mother Judith and I thought that a good item to donate would be **shelf-stable milk** (such as Parmalat or Horizon brands). I know these products are available at Big Bunny, Shaw's, Walmart and other local stores.

We are suggesting this because so many products donated to food pantries need milk – foods such as macaroni and cheese mixes, cereals, and soups that are more nutritious when they are made with milk. Unfortunately, milk is one of the least likely items to be donated. This is probably because most of us think first of fresh refrigerated milk when we think of milk – no matter what it is going to be used for. We might also think of powdered milk, but many of us recognize how powdered milk can seem unappealing as it is very low in fat. Because food pantries may not all have refrigeration, it may not always be possible to donate fresh milk. However, especially when milk is going to be used for cooking, there is another option – shelf-stable milk.

Shelf-stable milk is ordinary milk that has been Ultra High Temperature (UHT) pasteurized. This means that the milk is quickly heated to a very high temperature. The process destroys bacteria and gives the milk a longer shelf life (up to 6 months). It does not need to be refrigerated until it is opened.

We are asking that you contribute to the food pantry ministry by purchasing **shelf stable milk** as part of our Sunday offerings. In addition, if you can, we would like to continue a suggestion from before covid – that you also consider picking up a non-perishable food item that is something you would like to find if you were experiencing food scarcity. Is there some canned or packaged food item that would give you more than just ordinary sustenance? Share an item of that nature with people who need the food pantry – for remember the words of our Lord Jesus, who said: "Whatsoever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do unto me."

*Rose Reith*

## Stewardship Note

Holy Trinity has been a good steward of Mission and Outreach in 2022. We should celebrate the unbudgeted Mission Accounts because these accounts are in/out accounts. A side note: the total is a tithe of our pledged income of \$85,270. The mission accounts are thru December 19<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Tamsin Lucey for her leadership on the Ukraine mission.

Ukraine Medical Supplies	\$3,137.27
Ukraine Episcopal Relief and Development	\$548.25
Ukraine Lemonade	\$950.00
Ukraine Cider	\$489.10
Mission Plate	\$1,243.17
Plan USA Inc. (Childreach)	\$420.00
United Thank Offering	\$1,045.69
American Cancer Society (youth fundraising)	\$200.00
Lenten Collection Human to Human	\$352.00
Food Share	<u>\$403.00</u>
Total	<u>\$8,788.48</u>

## Sundays in January

<b>January 1st</b>	<b>Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus</b> 9:30am Holy Eucharist with prayers for the new year
<b>January 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord</b> 9:15am Children's Chapel 9:30-10:15 Discussion Groups downstairs 10:45 Teens Meeting in the Undercroft
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. weekend</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist with prayers for social justice
<b>January 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9:30 am</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>January 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:45-9:15 am</b> Review of the 2023 Budget in the Parish Hall <b>9:30am</b> Holy Eucharist with Annual Parish Meeting

## Epiphany Celebration Hosted by Family Worship

### Epiphany Celebration

**Friday January 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm – 8pm**

**A Play: The Three Kings Holy Communion**

**Potluck Supper**

Friends and families share supper, hymns, readings, a play, and communion.

5-5:30pm Families and play participants gather for final run-through

5:30 Service of Holy Communion with a Christmas play performed by the Family Worship Players

6:15 pm Potluck Supper

Please bring a dish to share (main, side or dessert).  
Beverages provided.

The invitation is open to parishioners, their friends and the community. Please join us.

RSVP by January 3rd would be helpful but not necessary to the Parish Office, Eileen DeMings, or Cat Reith-Lowery





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(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Services**

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

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



Website



Facebook



Tithe.ly—Giving