

Stewardship of Our Building

A 10-Year Tour



HOLY TRINITY
VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
AUGUST 6-10
9am - 12:00PM
FREE LUNCH
Sunday Celebration 9:30am
446 Hamilton St.
Southbridge



prayer

FOR THE PARISH

O gracious God, you are more than we can adequately describe, and you are with us always, wherever we may be and whether or not you were invited. As we continue to live our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit may we begin to recognize all around us in ordinary things, your kingdom, a place where everyone is seen. Help us to open our eyes and see that the road to the sacred is paved with the ordinary. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

The church and bell tower were built in 1869 ~ 154 years ago



The "Welcome Bench"

Celebrating 150 Years on Hamilton Street

In 2019 Holy Trinity Church will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the construction of the building we call our church home.

The church was built by the Hamilton Wool Company in 1869 for the Union Church. Holy Trinity became a mission in 1905 and purchased this building in 1921. The church was renovated to accommodate the Episcopal worship style. The church building survived two major fires, one in 1931 and one in 1941. Each time the congregation rallied to fix the building.

In recognition of this sesquicentennial, we will be planning a variety of events over the next three years. We will tell our history through stories, displays and events ending with a year of celebration including a historical Eucharist service and a July 2019 community barbecue.

As stewards of this building your vestry and the congregation have made substantial repairs over the last three years. To celebrate the 150th we will establish a 150th Anniversary Building Fund.



Holy Trinity Church was placed on the National Historic Register in 1989



Please share your celebration suggestions with a member of the vestry and watch for details.

The Parish Hall and Classroom wing were built in 1958, now 65 years old.
Handicap railing replaced in 2021: \$13,350 (building code)



Note the new flower garden by the landscape Committee

Entering the Sanctuary



Arriving early



Arriving later



Christmas at Holy Trinity

A Service of ...

LESSONS & CAROLS

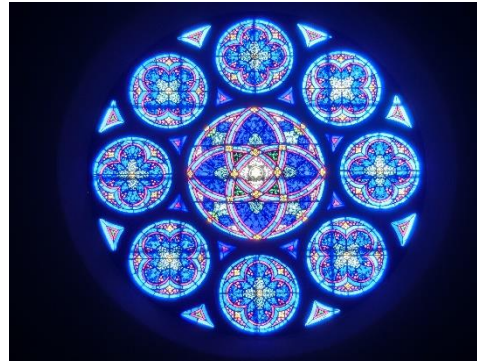
With Holy Communion

Come sit a while in the pew, listen to Lessons (readings) and sing Carols (songs - all the favorite ones), that tell the story of Jesus' birth. Then afterward share in the best gift of all - Holy Communion. Invite family and friends to join you for a Christmas service that will be relaxing, joyful and uplifting, new and different, but traditional and familiar as well!

Sunday, December 29 @ 9:30 am

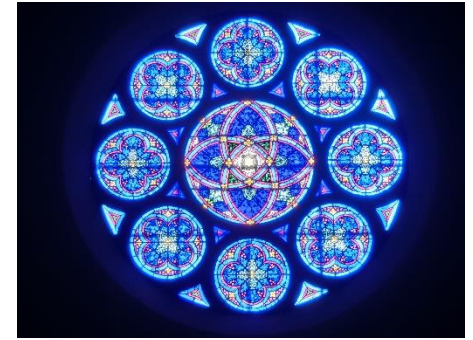
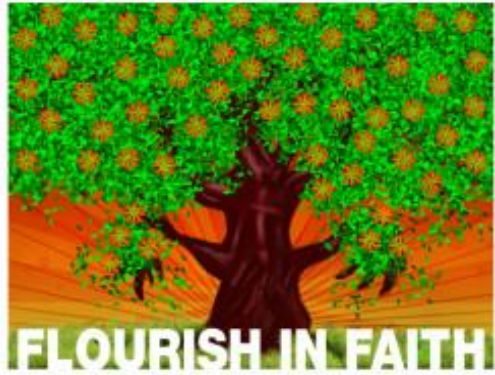
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton Street, Southbridge
508-765-9559 www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org





We enjoy our 19 stained glass windows.
All need periodic repair: cost is about
\$1,500 per window.





Baptisms~Confirmations~Funerals



We enjoy our Music Program



*Music is an
outburst
of the soul*

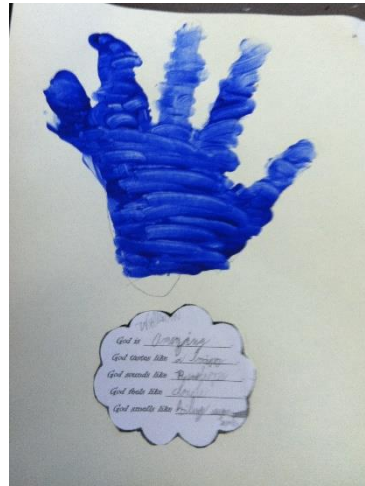
Organ and Piano maintenance: \$700/year
Major organ repairs: \$900/year



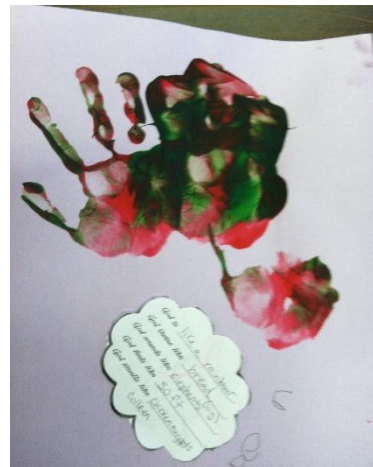
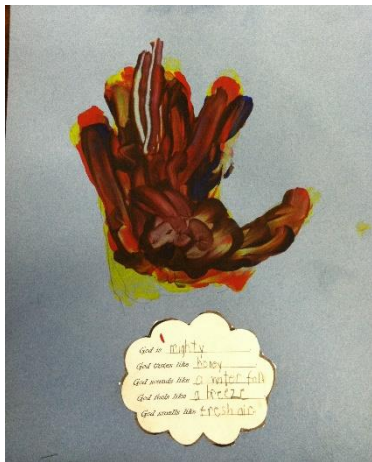
We Celebrate Children: Newly Renovated Children's Chapel



Children Reflect on God



God is: amazing, nice, mighty, like a rainbow
God feels like: clouds, rain, a breeze, snowy



Parish Outreach Ministries



Prayer Shawls



Mampong Babies Home



United Thank Offering



Food Share and Food Pantry Donations

A view from the Bell Tower: the “Cricket” is the juncture of the Bell Tower to the Sanctuary:
In 2014 we did a 50-year repair: \$10,285



154 year-old stained glass windows in the tower



154 year-old stained glass windows in the tower

The Tower and Slate Roof have been very costly structures to keep in good repair



The slate church roof is 154 years-old. It is in good repair, but needs to be inspected every 3-5 years and “slipping slates” need to be fixed.

\$34,500 over 10 years

Celebrating Life at Holy Trinity



PARISH LIFE

Holy Trinity is called to recognize, celebrate and communicate God's presence within, among and around us.

Ministry – Building Bridges that connect us to God and each other.

We are all ministers in the church, and as such we are called to provide music for our services, prepare the altar for communion services, become Lay Eucharistic Ministers, brighten the sanctuary and the homes of ailing parishioners with flowers, accommodate nursery needs of young parents, and participate in the various other ministries of Holy Trinity. Either individually or in groups, 85 percent of our congregation is actively involved in one or more ministries. Parishioners say that they feel welcomed and included from their very first visit because they are invited to share their gifts and talents.

“It’s a very organic process at Holy Trinity with one person talking to another.... “

While we might go quietly about our ministries, Holy Trinity is joyously exuberant about food. We willingly share our hospitality gifts and talents at the Sunday hospitality hour, receptions to honor guests or celebrate achievements, community suppers, the local food pantry with meals in a bag, or by supporting Food Share.

“Parishioners are encouraged to participate in those ministries for which they have gifts.”



Coffee Hour and other parish gatherings are an important part of life at Holy Trinity:

2016 Replace 2/3 of the Parish Hall roof and restore/paint Cupola \$5,940.

2020 additional roof shingles and restore rubber roof \$18,600





VBS 2019

Stairwell to downstairs right



our dedicated Parish
Administrative Assistant works
in the parish office next to the
stairwell



Chris McTigue

The Undercroft



Christmas Dinner for the Community



**In 2015 the Undercroft ceiling collapsed:
\$20,550 offset by insurance -\$11,000 Final cost \$9,550**



Kitchen Renovation 2017



- ServSafe certification \$200/5 years (Tamsin provided)
- Kitchen inspection \$200/year currently (waived with petition)
- Dedicated cleaning crew to prepare for twice a year inspection.

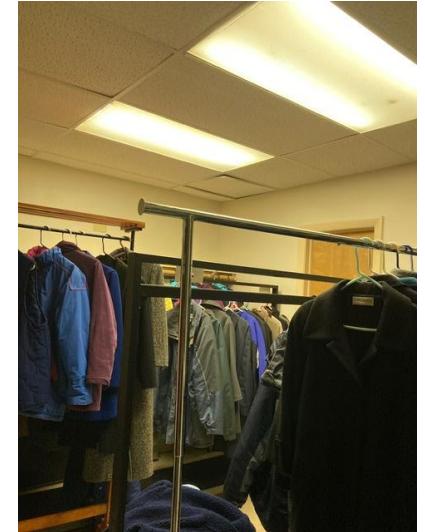


\$22,000 off-set by Diocesan grant of \$6,625

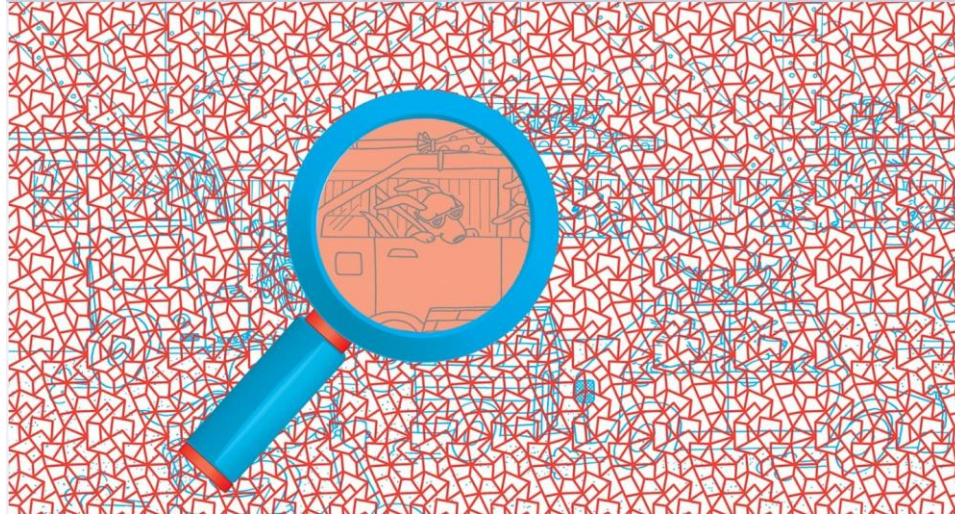
Architectural advice and drawings: Cat and Nate Lowery

Tamsin Lucey and Susan Howland: “general contractors” ☺

Winter Coat Closet Ministry



Started in 2006: an Ecumenical Project



Some Things Hidden in the Undercroft

Undercroft Storage Room



Electrical Panel

Gas Meter



Fire Alarm Panel

Holy Trinity heats 15,048 square feet with oil using two-furnaces

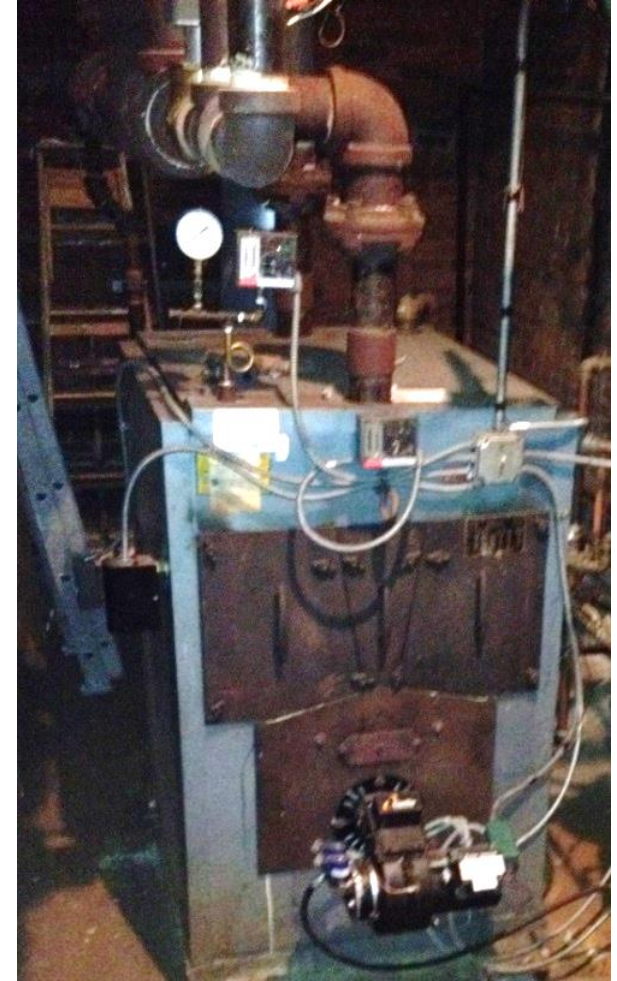


Little Bob

\$500 Annual
Boiler cleaning
and maintenance

\$2,000/year on
average for heating
system repairs

\$100/year for 2 High
pressure boiler state
certificates



Big Bertha

Really Hidden

7,500 gallon in-ground oil tank

We burn 4,500 gallons a year



Fire Protection System 2016

\$34,000 to install

Over 100 individual components



- ❖ \$280/year for monitoring
- ❖ \$270/year for testing
- ❖ \$150/year maintenance
- ❖ \$200/year Inspect and recharge fire extinguishers and check emergency lights
- ❖ Required by the fire department

Fire Escape restored in 2022: \$9,600.00



Stairwell to downstairs left





There are 8 classrooms

They have been used for:

- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- Quinabaug Valley Singers Music Library
- A Free Medical Clinic
- The YMCA Daycare for up to 2 ¹/₂ y.o.
- A home office rental
- Other things!

On the left



Home Office 2022-2023



Unused classroom



Greg Nikolla,
our dedicated
Sexton



2 Family Worship rooms

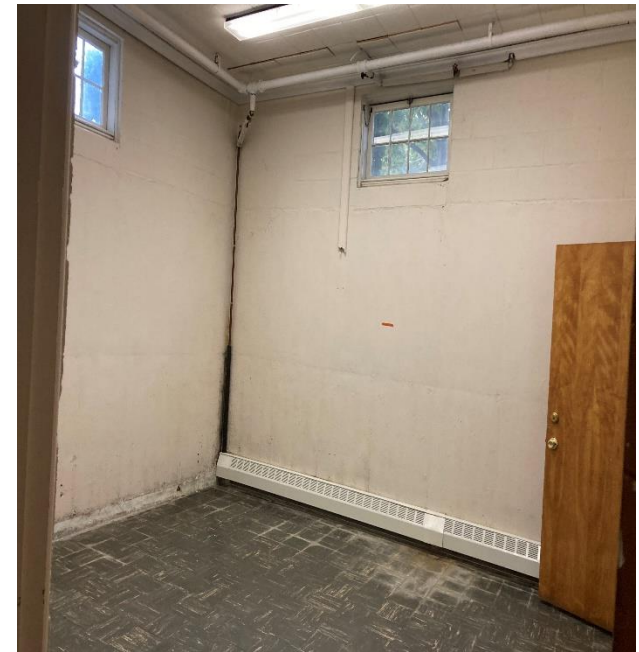


Unused classroom
Once used as a free
medical clinic office

On the Right



2 unused Classrooms

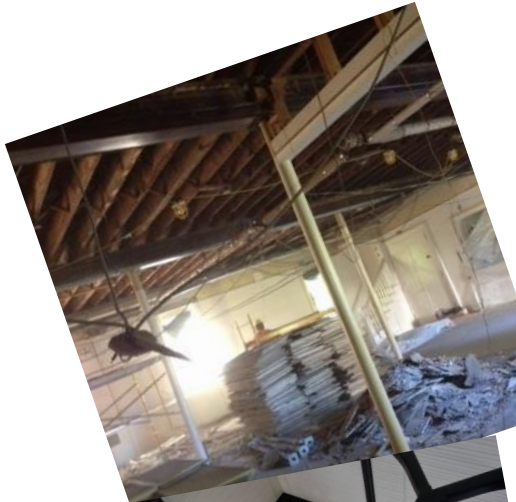


Unused classroom
(Formerly QVS music library)

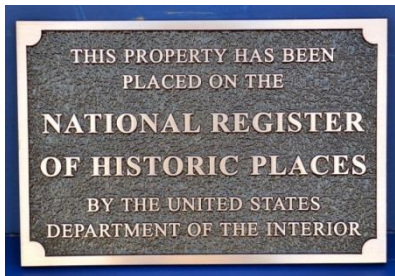
Vacation Bible School through the years



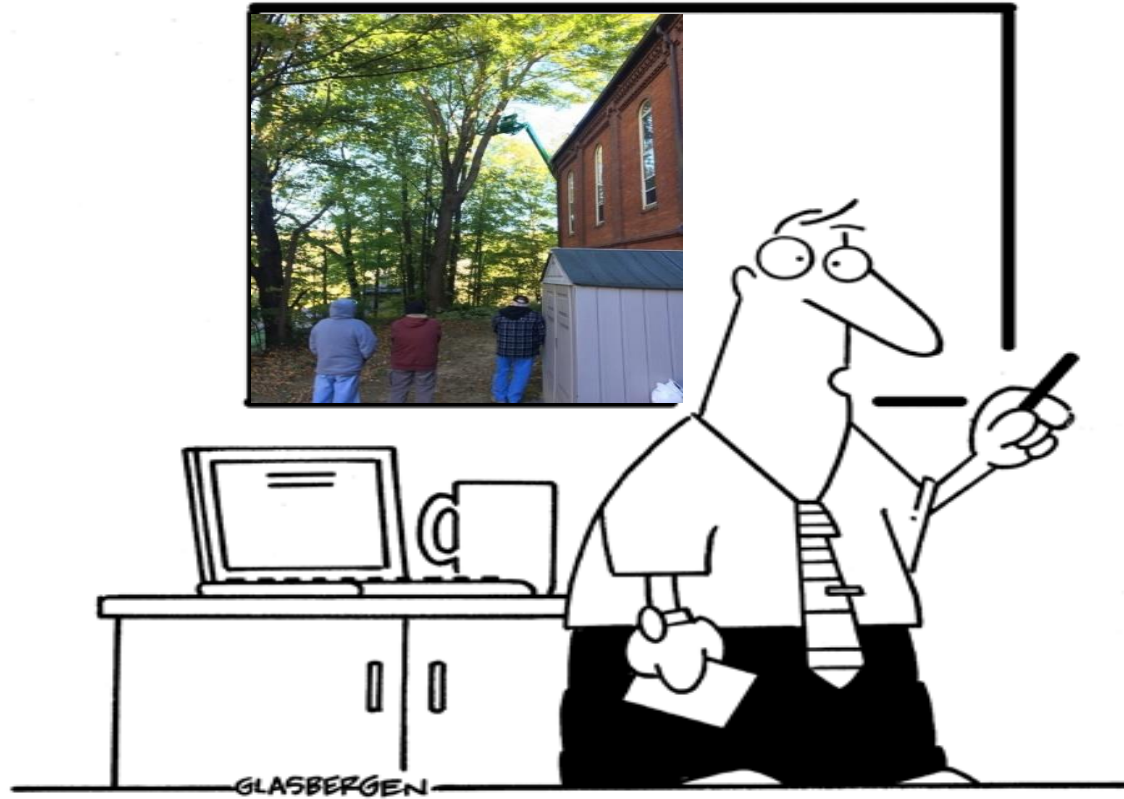
Church Building Capital Improvement



Holy Trinity Portico Project



Building Adventures



Whenever something goes wrong the first question we must ask ourselves is:
Can this problem be fixed with Duct Tape?

2013 Two major capital improvement projects

Cost: \$15,875



2019 Repair Foyer Stairs \$4,000



2019 Prayer Garden



\$1,000 from Memorial Funds



Hours of labor by many, but primarily Cat and Nate who created the pavers and 2 concrete benches.



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Budget for maintaining the building considering size and age.



Cat Reith-Lowery took on the project of finding a realistic figure for maintaining the building. Here is the verdict.

Operating costs:

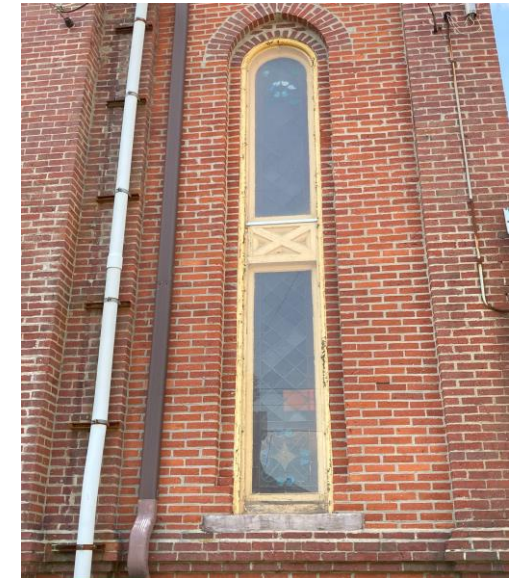
		Commercial Budget estimate	Our Budget
• Utilities \$2.14/Sq.Ft.		\$32,203	\$26,945
• Repairs/Maintenance/Improvements \$4.11/Sq. Ft.		\$61,874	\$29,781
\$15,048 Sq. Ft.	Total	\$94,077	\$56,726
		Difference \$37,351	

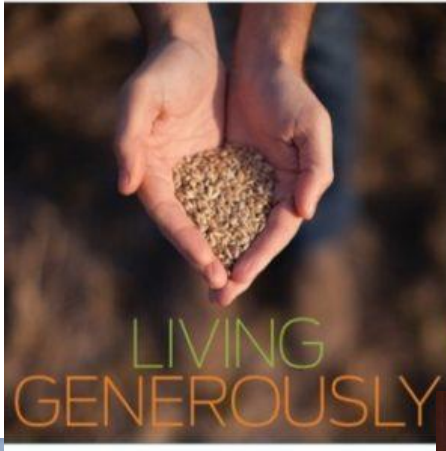
Building repairs on the horizons



Install more electrical outlets
in sanctuary to avoid long
term use of extension cords.

Retaining wall – plan for
upgrade before next
inspection. (August 2024)







SOUTHBRIDGE

Closet door opens for coat donations

by Kim Ring

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

11/11/2009

SOUTHBRIDGE — As she was hanging out the sign for the Winter Coat Closet at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church one recent day, a man hailed the Rev. Mary Gustafson and told her the coat he was wearing came from the coat closet last year.

It made her smile.

Three years ago, the church at 446 Hamilton St. opened its free coat closet in hopes that those in need would come by. Word of the effort was spread to other churches and organiza-



T&G Staff/DAN GOULD

Parishioner Eileen DeMings is organizing the winter coats closet at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

THANK YOU!

Holy Trinity Church Family Worship's 2016 Collection

raised:

\$206.50

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



souperbowl.org

February 7, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clara B. Cooper".

Clara Cooper
President and CEO
Souper Bowl of Caring



Many years of Vacation Bible School open to the community

VBS reminds us.....

**When you're
powerless...
Jesus rescues!**



813 THEODORE, LOUIS
75 GLOVER ST #1
SOUTHBRIDGE
MA 01550-5548

Church concert raises awareness for gun violence

SOUTHBRIDGE — Holy Trinity Episcopal Church took part in Concert Across America, a national event where churches across America agreed to hold a concert on Sunday, Sept. 25 to raise awareness against gun violence.

“It brings awareness,” said Senior Warden Nancy Waugh. “We’re trying to come from a positive angle. It’s not against guns. It’s against violence and in support of the victims of gun violence.”

Members of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church sang hymns and prayers about peace, along with community members. A way to bring people together, the positive event had people laughing and smiling, as well as talking seriously about gun violence.



Holy Trinity Pageants



Do not be daunted by the enormity
of the world's grief. Do justly now.
Love mercy now. Walk humbly
now. You are not obligated to
complete the work, but neither are
you free to abandon it.

Inspired by Micah 6:8 and the Talmud



Mary And Martha Chapter Daughters of the King



Praying daily for the parish



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

growing OUR FAITH THROUGH Generosity



Piglet noticed that
even though he had
a very small heart,
it could hold
a rather large amount
of gratitude.

A.A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*



Thanksgivings



There is SO much to be thankful for at Holy Trinity

- Community
- Dedicated leaders
- Dedicated lay and ordained ministers
- Dedicated staff: Sexton and Secretary
- Dedicated Organist and Music Director
- And God has sent us Mother Judith to guide us on our Hamilton Street, Southbridge journey.



Community

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

“The Merton Prayer” from [Thoughts in Solitude](#)

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**In an effort to repurpose our unused classroom wing
in 2019 we engaged Dixon Salo Architects to do a
feasibility study**

- **There are many permitted uses of the space, but all require major renovations to the building.**
- **Estimated cost to address major deficiencies: \$162,110.**
- **Parking and Handicap Accessibility were major obstacles.**

The entire report is available on our website.

At one point we were in conversation with Food Share about relocating to the Classroom wing, but it fell through primarily due to lack of access to the downstairs by truck.

2020 Neighborhood Engagement Committee

In January 2020 a group of people were authorized by the vestry to meet with Fr. José Reyes, diocesan Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministries, to discern a way forward for Holy Trinity to become a “community outpost” or a “hub”.

The group met for 18 months, on Zoom. A community survey was developed and 26 people/organizations were contacted.

The top community need was affordable housing, which we were not able to address.

The next 3 needs were:

1. Education: adults and children
2. Family support
3. Food insecurity

We were ready you “take the plunge” and start a once-a-week internet café in 2021 and see who came in and what was needed.

We would offer:

- *Wi-Fi*
- *Chairs and tables*
- *Coffee and cookies*
- *Hospitality: everything is about relationship*
- *And be open to whoever God sent us.*



Stalled by COVID and Fr. Richard's Retirement!!

What is next for Holy Trinity....???



The Vestry has been listening to the Parish for the last 6 months.

Ideas

- Rent space for events, i.e. funerals, weddings
- Create apartments
- Create a museum, undetermined subject



Other ideas

- A Dark Kitchen – food trucks need a place to precook their food, so a kitchen without it being a restaurant.
- Open Sky feeds children
- Tri-Valley Inc. in Dudley: the churches they use have commercial kitchens.
- Some Pentecostal churches are looking for places to worship.
- Nailed-It runs a 4-month construction course and they rent hall space for their classes.
- New Hope – emergency feeding.
- Offer movie nights, music nights.
- Bread Box Theater/Covenant Soup Kitchen at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Willimantic, CT has done interesting ministry with building changes. The demographics of Southbridge and Willimantic are very similar.

We can only do it together!



