



JANUARY TIDINGS

Volume 6 Issue 1

January 2024

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

holyltrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com
www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

The Rev. Judith Lee
Priest-in-Charge
jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com
716.949.8194
Lynn Garland—Sr. Warden
(508-801-4638)

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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]*

As we begin a new phase of preparations for new ministry, I found myself returning to this "A Blessing of Angels" by John O'Donohue:

*May the Angels in their beauty bless you.
May they turn toward you streams of blessing.*

*May the Angel of Awakening stir your heart
To come alive to the eternal in you.*

*May the Angel of Healing turn your wounds
Into sources of refreshment.*

*May the Angel of the Imagination enable you
To stand on the true thresholds
At ease with your ambivalence
And drawn in new directions
Through the glow of your contradictions.*

*May the Angel of Compassion open your eyes
To the unseen suffering around you.*

*May the Angel of Wildness disturb the places
Where your life is domesticated and safe,
Take you to the territories of true otherness*

*Where all that is awkward in you
can fall into its own rhythm.*

*May the Angel of Eros introduce you
To the beauty of your senses
To celebrate your inheritance
As a temple of the holy spirit.*

*May the Angel of Justice disturb you
To take the side of the poor and the wronged.*

*May the Angel of Encouragement confirm you
In worth and self-respect,
That you may live with the dignity
That presides in your soul.*

*May the Angel of Death arrive only
When your life is complete
And you have brought every given gift
To the threshold where its infinity can shine.*

*May the Angels be your sheltering
And joyful guardians.*

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to share this time 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 Council (WCAC) 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 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.

Loraine Brumskine
Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee



Winter Coat Closet Update

The Ecumenical Winter Coat Closet, which ended on December 16th, gave out close to 400 warm coats this season. This ministry is a combined effort supported by several churches in the community. We are so grateful to Holy Trinity for providing the space, and volunteers from our church and others who work together to provide warm winter coats for anyone who needs one. We received many donations from area churches, as well as individuals. As always, if you know someone in need of a coat, please call the church office 508-765-9559 and talk to Chris.

Thank you!

January

BIRTHDAYS

2– Karron Lacey
3– Harry Theodoss
27– Nicholas Sargent



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 14, therefore.... All reports are due to the Parish Administrative Assistant

BEFORE January 11.

Please send your email to holytrinitysouth-bridge@gmail.com

Sundays in January: The Season of the Epiphany

- January 7** **The Feast of the Epiphany [transferred]**
9:30 am **Family Worship**
10:30-11:30 am Teens (Grades 7-12) meet downstairs
- January 14** **2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**
Martin Luther King Weekend: Prayers for social justice
9:15 am Children's Chapel
9:30 am Holy Eucharist
- January 21** **3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**
9:15 am Children's Chapel
9:30 am Holy Eucharist
- January 28** **4th Sunday after the Epiphany**
Annual Parish Meeting
9:30 am VBS Downstairs
 Holy Eucharist in the Parish Hall



Mark your calendars:

- February 4th** **Candlemas: Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord**
9:30 am Family Worship
10:30 am Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets downstairs
- February 11th** **Souper Bowl Sunday: Bring a can of soup for the Food Pantry**
- February 13th** **5:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**
- February 14th** **Ash Wednesday: Ashes to Go & Services TBA**
-

Food Pantry



Community Bridge Fridge in Southbridge will receive our donation for January. Our focus will be canned vegetables. Please see Karron Lacey to learn more.

Community Outreach

Our Blue Shades Clarinet concert on December 10th raised over \$500 for Rosilda's Kitchen, a community meal program at the First United Methodist Church of Southbridge.



Spiritual Formation: Children and Youth

January 7th The Feast of the Epiphany [transferred]

Family Worship: 9:30 am Children and Youth will lead the service with a dramatic reading of the Gospel

Youth Group (Grades 6-12): 10:30-11:30

February 4th The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord / Candlemas

Family Worship: 9:30 am

Youth Group (Grades 6-12): 10:30-11:30



VBS Sunday: January 28th 9:30 – 10:30 am

Annual Parish Meeting



Children's Chapel: January 14th & 21st 9:15 am

Adult Formation

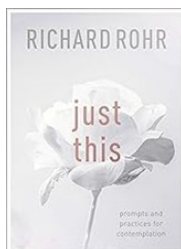
The Chosen:

Episode 4—Wednesday January 17th 5:30-7 pm
@ Bethlehem Lutheran

Episode 5 – Wednesday January 31st 5:30-7 pm
@ Bethlehem Lutheran

We will share a simple supper of soup, bread, and dessert.

We are partnering with Bethlehem Lutheran for monthly viewing and discussion of Season 1 of this popular video series about the life and ministry of Christ. Robin Yates will facilitate discussion. We will meet for 8 sessions (September – May), including some Zoom sessions during the winter months. Watch for more information. The series can be seen on Amazon Prime, Netflix, and <https://www.angel.com>



HTEC Reading Group

January:

Richard Rohr, *Just This: Prompts and Practices for Contemplation* [SPCK Press, 2018]

Discussion: Thursday, January 25 @ 5 pm

We thought we would begin the new year with this collection of brief and evocative meditations and practices by Richard Rohr designed to make us more aware and alert to the beauty of ordinary days.

Vestry Highlights: December 13, 2023

Resolved

- Approved 3% Cost of Living raises for staff
- Approved 2024 Housing Resolution for Mother Judith
- Approved 2024 Liturgical Licenses
- Agreed to begin a conversation with Bethlehem Lutheran about sharing clergy

Discussion:

- Interview with The Rev. Vicki Ix about bi-vocational quarter-time ministry
- Discussed plans for the annual Parish Meeting (January 28, 2024)
- What we have done well: Blue Shades Clarinet concert; weekly e-news

Praying Hands Ministry January 2024 Report

Our Praying Hands Ministry shared a lot of love and comfort in 2023. Mother Judith blessed 62 prayer shawls. Most were given away and there are some left for 2024. In addition to adult-size shawls we now have a basket of small, children's sized shawls and Sue Smith made us a selection of "prayer bibs".

Thanks to all who knitted, crocheted and shared the shawls.

Blessings,

Susan Howland, coordinator



Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana

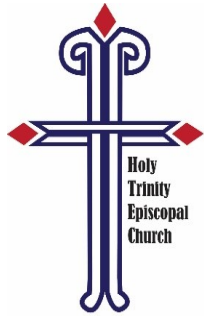


In 2023 we started monthly sponsorships for the Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana. I am thrilled to say that all 12 months had sponsors and we sent \$420 plus \$123 from the "Big Bottle" to the Change the Babies ministry helping to care for the children at the Mampong Babies Home.

We will continue the monthly \$35 sponsorships in 2024 and continue to collect "change" for the Change the Babies ministry.

Blessings,

Susan Howland



ANNUAL MEETING

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO HOLY TRINITY
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

snow date February 4

8:45 AM-9:15 AM Presentation of the 2024 budget, in the Parish Hall

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist incorporating the Annual Meeting

11:00 AM Conversation & coffee

*Printed annual meeting reports will be 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 2024

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) 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.

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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. Rite II Holy Eucharist

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



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving