



MAY TIDINGS

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May 2024

A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge

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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]*

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Beloved Siblings in Christ

I'm officially back from vacation after a wonderful week of rock and roll! You see, one of the things that you will quickly learn about me is that I'm a huge Bruce Springsteen fan. I love everything about his music and the stories he tells through his lyrics. The man, who's been at this for over 50 years, has a song for seemingly every situation that we might encounter throughout the courses of our lives. Over the past week, I managed to put together a nice three concert mini tour through New England and New York. There is such an energy to these shows but also there is a depth to the songs that keeps drawing me back. One of the prominent themes of his show has been one that centers around coming face to face with our own mortality, particularly centered around the songs Last Man Standing, Backstreets, and I'll See You in My Dreams. Given the last few years, I found an incredibly powerful and poignant theme to focus on, especially given the loss of life we encountered during covid.

In the midst of these high energy shows, Bruce offered a chance for folks to catch their breath and to reflect on the losses of their life and the grief that continues to be carried with them. In the midst of these songs Bruce directly spoke to the place where grief comes from. He said, "Grief is the price we pay for loving well." In that moment in the midst of those songs, those words really struck me.

Beloved siblings, these last years have not been easy. Loss and grief have surrounded us on so many sides. Perhaps you find yourselves in the midst of grief right now. Springsteen, in speaking and singing directly and openly about being the Last Man Standing, gives us permission to be open about relationships we have lost, the love we had in those relationships, and that it is ok to find ourselves in the midst of grief. It's part of the way we experience and share the love we have, and had for our beloveds.

*The road is long and seeming without end
 The days go on, I remember you my friend
 And though you're gone and my heart's been emptied it seems
 I'll see you in my dreams*

---I'll See You in My Dreams, Bruce Springsteen

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Dan



Spiritual Formation: Children and Teens

May 5 **The Sixth Sunday in Easter**

Family Worship

9:30 am Family Worship

We will continue to have Family Worship on the first Sunday of every month. Please let Chris McTigue know who is available to serve as readers, acolytes, ushers, or hospitality hosts.

Adult Formation

The Chosen: Season 2: Episodes 1 & 2: Wednesday May 22nd 5:30-8:30 pm @ Bethlehem Lutheran.

We will share a simple supper of soup, bread, and dessert before viewing and discussion



St. Luke's Guesthouse Car Wash: Date TBA Volunteers are needed

I am the new volunteer coordinator at St Luke's Guesthouse. I am reaching out to let you know that we will be having a car wash fundraiser in late May/ early June. Date is still to be decided.

I am looking for volunteers to help with various roles at the car wash. Some would include holding signs, collecting money, washing the vehicles, etc. We anticipate the hours to be 9am-2pm. Volunteers could work all day or in shifts. Any minors under 18 would need an adult to accompany them.

You can email or call me. My cell is: 774-230-3589. My email is stlukesguesthousetricia@gmail.com

Blessings,
Tricia Gay

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Now that we have a beautiful garden in front of the church, we need to keep it weeded! While the mulch suppresses most of the weed growth, some still get through. If you can contribute some time to assist with this effort, please let Lynn Garland know.



BIRTHDAYS

4 — Aliana Bousquet
12 — Anne Bouvier-Monroe
15 — Sally Baum

Did You Know About the Parrettie Fund?

In 1990, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Southbridge, MA, became one of the several beneficiaries of the Will of the late Mary Y. Parrettie, of the Village of Cummaquid, in Barnstable County, Massachusetts: She bequeathed a sum of money which the interest was "...to be used for the benefit of the poor in the respective churches." Further clarification of the intent of this will over many years by Holy Trinity's vestries has discerned this to extend to our geographical church community (whether members or not – with priority being given to those in our church membership). This geographical area includes Southbridge, Sturbridge, Fiskdale, Holland, Brimfield, Charlton & Brookfield.

The members of the Parrettie Committee are appointed yearly by the vestry. The 2024 members are: Lynn Garland (Chair), Susan Howland, Tamsin Lucey, Barbara Kalber, and Lana Pieczynski. The Treasurer, Nancy Waugh, and the Priest sit on this committee ex-officio without vote.

If you or someone you know in our parish or geographical area are in need of financial assistance for any unforeseen/unexpected occurrence, please reach out to one of the committee members for a confidential financial assistance application from the Parrettie Fund. The intent of Mary Parrettie was that this money is put to good use to help those in need.



Our May donations will go to the Bridge Fridge of Southbridge. The focus will be non-perishable foods and snacks.

**Thank you
for your generosity!**



Vestry Highlights

- ◆ **The Annual Audit of our financial records was completed and accepted by the Vestry.**
- ◆ **The results of the survey regarding Coffee Hour indicated that the majority of people who responded preferred to have coffee hour after the service.**
- ◆ **What have we done well?**
 - The activity for the young people held on Good Friday afternoon at the church.**
 - The Maundy Thursday Vigil overnight into Good Friday morning -all the time slots were filled.**
 - The ceremony for the Daughters of the King and the reception following the service.**

Mission Plate for May

The mission committee shares that in response to a devastating fire on Tuesday April 9th at about 1 a.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, 45 Howard Street, Northborough, MA, we are changing the schedule for mission plate offerings for the month of May.

According to reports from a local news site, *The Community Advocate*, and the *Worcester Telegram*, the Northborough fire department received an automatic fire alarm activation from the church at 1:04 a.m. The church building offices, parish hall and day care were unoccupied at the time of the alarm.

After the fire the new deacon-in-charge, the Rev. Meghan Mantler, and the congregation pledge to rebuild. “I am a survivor of Hurricane Katrina, so I know how to do this . . . I know how to rebuild. I know how to have that strength in community. And we can do that here at Nativity” states Mantler. The fire, traced to an electrical issue, resulted in close to \$1 million in structural, smoke, water, and soot damage, affecting the left side of the nave and adjoining areas.

Like Holy Trinity, the Church of the Nativity is in transition. Mantler, who just came to the church as the deacon-in-charge on Feb. 1st, and will be ordained on May 11th, is deeply saddened by the scope of the damage. However, while it is a huge task to face when she has just come to the parish, she is also confident that with support from the congregation and others the building can be repaired.

Mantler shared with the *Telegram* that their altar came from France and is somewhat irreplaceable. Also lost were many items donated in memory of loved ones which were damaged beyond repair. Explaining how that breaks her heart, Mantler insists that while this is certainly not what the congregation anticipated for their first year with new pastoral leadership, she recognizes that they must carry on from where they are. She is grateful that congregants are rising to that challenge. “It’s not . . . that I think God tests [us] on purpose, but it’s a test of faith to say [we] can still have a joyful moment in the midst of devastation . . . And that will be true and that’s what we will do on May 11th, the date she is scheduled to be ordained. And, God willing, it will be in the parish hall, which will be transformed into a church over these coming weeks with help from other congregations donating stuff to us.”

Mantler praised the Northborough Fire Department for its swift response in extinguishing the blaze. The congregation is particularly grateful that as firefighters worked to contain the fire, they were able to avoid breaking the church’s seven handmade stained-glass windows, which were designed by a parishioner back in the 1970s and installed and soldered by parishioners as well.

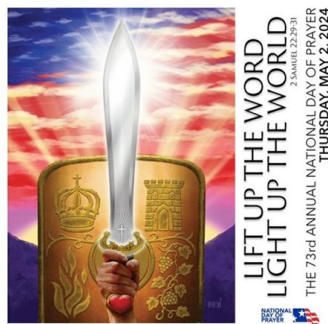
The first week after the fire, Sunday eucharist took place in a tent on the church’s grounds. This past Sunday services were held in the church’s Fellowship Hall. “We’re Episcopalians,” Mantler declared, “What we know how to do best is pray . . . whether . . . it’s outside or inside, that’s what we want to do.”

Mantler explained that one of the main priorities will be to get its preschool back up and running. An estimated 30 families are enrolled in the church’s preschool program. “We want to get our kids back . . . in their building, so that they can continue to learn, continue to have their full school year, and they can have their little graduation ceremony, which is supposed to be May 31.” While insurance is expected to cover most of the damage, the church has established a restoration fund for the rest. For more information, visit <https://www.churchofthenativity.org/>.

To read the source articles: <https://www.communityadvocate.com/2024/04/09/fire-damages-church-in-northborough/>

<https://www.telegram.com/story/news/fire/2024/04/19/fire-damaged-church-of-nativity-in-northborough-ready-to-rebound/73375816007/>





Join us for the National Day of Prayer on

Thursday, May 2, 2024 4:00 – 4:45 pm Southbridge Common.

This ecumenical event will have leaders praying for Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Government and Arts/Entertainment & Media. We come together from our different traditions to pray for love and peace in our local communities, the country and the world. Bring a lawn chair or blanket if desired.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sundays in May

May 5th

11:00 am

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Family Worship

Holy Communion

Coffee Hour following the service

May 12th

11:00 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

Coffee Hour following the service

May 19th

11:00 am

Pentecost Sunday

Holy Communion

Wear something RED to church

Coffee Hour following the service



May 26th

11:00 am

Trinity Sunday

Holy Communion

Coffee Hour following the service

Happy Mother's Day!



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(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

**Pastor Dan Purtell
Priest-in-Charge**

May
Worship



Website



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Tithely—Giving