

JANUARY TIDINGS

Volume 8 Issue 1

January 2026

Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-765-9559
holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com
www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
The Rev. Dan Purtell
Priest-in-Charge
pastordan.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

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

Inside this issue:

Priest's Reflection	1
Daughters of the King	2
Coat Closet Thanks	2
January Birthdays	2
MLK Day	2
Rosilda's Kitchen Wed.	3
Food Pantry	3
Bethlehem News	3
Rosilda's Kitchen 2025	4
Annual Meeting	5
Inclement Weather	5
Mission Plate	6
The Chosen	6



A Reflection from your Priest-In-Charge

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! By the time you are reading this article we will still be in the 12 days of Christmas and we will of course have turned the calendar to 2026. As we move into the new year we continue to celebrate that the ultimate love, God's love, broke into the world and walked amongst us. I hope you've been able to enjoy sometime with family and friends, and perhaps catch some downtime in the midst of our chaotic world. I also pray that you continue to dwell in the mystery of the incarnation the wonder of God's all-inclusive love.

I've also been dwelling on the words of the prophet Isaiah, particularly the ones that show up on our worship materials every week.

*Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

What new thing is God doing in your life this year? What new thing is God doing here at Holy Trinity? What new thing is God doing with the partnership between Holy Trinity and Bethlehem?

I'd invite you to pray and consider these questions and then I would love to hear your thoughts! Whether that's over coffee, via text, or some other means, what is something new that God is doing in your life and in the life of the congregations.

Christmas Blessings!

Pastor Dan

Daughters of the King

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Daughters would like to update you on our most recent activities. Last year we adopted New Hope, a shelter for survivors of abuse and their children, as our focus in ministry. Over the past year we have been able to donate, from their wish list, a wide range of supplies; paper towels, sheets, shower curtains, sweat pants and tops, personal care items, adult coloring books, school supplies ... etc. This Christmas we were able to donate ten \$25.00 WalMart gift cards. These gift cards and donations were delivered to the residents of the Worcester Shelter. We would like to thank you for your continued support of the Daughters of the King.

We look forward to a New Year of Ministry.

God's Peace & Blessings be with you all!!



Winter Coat Closet

The Ecumenical Winter Coat Closet, located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church was open on Saturday mornings from November 1st to December 20th. Through the generosity of many, we were able to provide approximately 460 free warm winter coats to 240 families and individuals, as well as numerous hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves. We would like to thank all those who donated to our efforts, those who prayed for our mission and those we assisted. Thank you to the church for use of the space and also thanks to our wonderful volunteers. We would not be able to succeed without them. Happy New Year to all!

With a grateful heart,

January

BIRTHDAYS



2– Karron Lacey
3– Harry Theodoss

Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 19, 2026 Bending Towards Justice

10 am Holy Eucharist service at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield.
The Very Reverend Jose Reyes, Presiding
The Reverend Dr. Walter Brownridge,
Preaching

I will be attending this service, leaving Bethlehem Lutheran parking lot at 9:00 am.
Please let me know if you would like to join me. I can give 4 people a ride.
Tamsin Lucey
abritinusa@gmail.com or 774-200-4279

Rosilda's Kitchen Wednesday Night Meal.



You might have read something about Rosilda's Kitchen offering a meal on Wednesday's. The Hot Meal served every Friday, 5 – 6 pm by Rosilda's Kitchen continues in the Undercroft. Parishioners help out with set up, serving and clean up, as and when they are available. In November, 2025, Rosilda's Kitchen was Blessed to be able to offer a freshly made hearty soup meal on Wednesday's, 5 – 6 pm as well as the hot meal on Friday's. This continued through December, and will continue through each Wednesday until at least the end of March 2026. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a hot soup meal, on Wednesdays and a hot meal on Friday's. Besides the food, recipients enjoy company and warmth. If you or someone you know would like to help out with either: preparing homemade fresh soup, or with set up, serving and clean up please come on a Wednesday or contact Tamsin Lucey, 774 200 4279 or abritinusa@gmail.com.



**Donations for January will go to
The Bridge Fridge.**

Bethlehem News



**Bethlehem's Closet is located at
33 Central Street Southbridge, MA 01550**

Our Current Hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
9:00AM to 2PM

*If you have a donation for the closet, clothes can be dropped off at
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.*

Rosilda's Kitchen 2025 Update

When the Southbridge United Methodist Church closed in January 2025, Rosilda's Kitchen became a ministry of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. An agreement was drawn up with a team from the former Southbridge Methodist Church committed to prepare and serve dinner on Fridays from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Starting on February 7, 2025, this team of volunteers, led and organized by Helen Boyle and Carl Bongiovi (former Southbridge Methodist Church parishioners,) hosted dinners on all Fridays in 2025, except the 4th of July.

With the SNAP benefits disruption in November 2025, a Wednesday Soup and Bread meal was started through the initiative of the Rosilda's Kitchen Team and Tamsin Lucey, supported by community partners: The Wellstorm, Inc., the Webster Sheriff's Dept, and other individuals. This additional meal continued through December, with the intent to continue through March 2026. A new agreement and organizational chart reflecting this expansion will be in place for 2026.

Free meals are offered for food, fellowship, and community.

We received confirmation from the Sturbridge Federated Church that they would continue to support Rosilda's Kitchen financially with \$500/quarter, which has continued in 2025. A free will offering is made at the dinners and contributes to funding the ministry. The Charlton City United Methodist Church donated bread and desserts weekly. United Methodist Foundation helped with some "relocation" costs.

Impact ~ Income ~ Expense

Impact:

933 community members were served meals from Friday, February 7th through Friday, December 26th. Many more takeout meals were served.

35 community members were served meals from Wednesday, November 12th through Wednesday, December 24th. Many more takeout meals were served.

Income: \$3,484

\$2,000 Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale

\$175 Methodist Church Conference

\$1,309 Free Will Offerings

Donated bread and desserts: The Charlton City United Methodist Church

Donated meal ingredients: The WellStorm Inc. and other donors

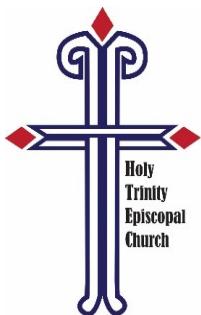
718 estimated volunteer hours

Expenses: \$2,629

\$1,674 Food

\$955 Supplies and Equipment

Susan Howland, on behalf of the Rosilda's Kitchen Team



Annual Meeting

All Parishioners Are Invited To

Join Us on Sunday, January 18, 2026 for our Annual Meeting

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist

12:00 coffee and lite lunch in the Parish Hall

12:15 Annual Meeting 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 2026

If there is a parking ban in Southbridge no parking is allowed on Hamilton Street, so Church will be cancelled. Please sign up to receive Town of Southbridge alerts. We will attempt to notify people through our website (www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org) and on our Facebook page. Please consider the road conditions and parking availability when making your own decision to attend the service.



Mission Plate for January & February

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.

Rose Reith, Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee



***Happy New Year”
Welcome To 2026
The Chosen***

You are all invited to join us on

January 28, 2026, 5:30-8

as we move forward in

Season 4 of “The Chosen”.

Lesson 4 of Season 4 will see the Apostles deal with unexpected grief and sadness, and look to Jesus for answers in their confusion.

Come join us in fellowship as we look deeper into the lives of the Apostles and discuss their relationships with Christ.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550
Southbridge, MA 01550

Holy Trinity Episcopal 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
11:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

Priest-in-Charge
The Reverend Dan Purtell



Website



Facebook

Tithely—Giving