

August Tidings

Volume 8, Issue 8

August 2026

A Reflection from Your Priest in Charge

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Summer blessings to you all as we enter this last week of July! Hard to believe how quickly this summer is flying by!

Last week, on Friday I had the opportunity to gather with some folks at Bethlehem for part of St. Luke's Guesthouse effort to raise awareness and money to support St. Luke's mission.

On Friday, Mel Gronski, Mother Judith, and myself gathered around the fire pit to enjoy the beautiful sounds of Bethlehem's bluegrass band. As the light dimmed and sounds of the music began to fade away, Mel and I set up our tents and prepared for a night sleeping out in side yard at Bethlehem.

At about 130 in the morning, our slumber was disturbed after we heard some trying to open a car door followed by the blaring of Mel's car alarm. I was hoping that she had accidentally bumped her key fob. She had not. We both popped our heads out the tent at the same time, both with concerned looks on our faces.

We both got up out our tents walked around the building, went inside the church for a minute to take stock, and then once our heart rates settled, we go back in our tents.

As we were lying there, there was one last conversation to be had, and as we thought about what had just happened, we recognized the privilege that we had. We could have locked ourselves in the church or packed up, got in our cars and driven back home.

That's not the case for those who are sleeping on the streets, in the woods or everything in between. Safety is by no means a guarantee.

Siblings in Christ, we are called to love and serve our neighbors, especially those who are struggling.

Scripture reminds us that, *In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?* **This particular verse is of course** from the Gospel of John and is often heard at funerals, offering this imagery of a house with unlimited rooms, perhaps in an effort to think about what comes after death.

However, we know God calls to be a part of the kingdom of God right here and right now. What then, can we do as a community of faith to ensure that beloved children of God who are seeking a room in the here and now, have a safe and warm place to stay?

This is kingdom work. This is our work. This is the sacred work we are called into.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dan

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-765-9559
holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com
www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

The Rev. Dan Purtell
Priest-in-Charge
Lynn Garland-Senior Warden
(508-801-4638)

Inside this issue:

Priests' Reflection	1
Thank you to HTEC	2
Praying Hands	3
Food Pantry	3
August Birthdays	3
Candlelight Prayer	4
Mission Plate	5
Summer Worship	6
Campfire Night	6



August

A Thank You from . . .



Dear Holy Trinity Congregation,

We would like to take the time to express our gratitude for what you all did for us. Just over a year and a half ago, our home/church was faced with the fact that our home could no longer stay open and we would be closing our doors. We had a ministry that we felt could not disappear. We reached out to the council and sat down and talked. We explained our ministry that was started back in 2018 by Pastor Sabina Terrades, what it has been doing, and how much it not only means to us but to those who come for a meal and fellowship. With careful consideration you all opened the doors and arms to receive us and our ministry and our first meal was served February 7 without missing a Friday as we transitioned to Holy Trinity.

Without God's grace and yours we would have lost this ministry and many who come would have lost more. Over the years we have come to know many by name and grown with them in so many ways. We have lost a few when they were called home. Each one of them has touched our lives as we continue doing what Jesus has asked us to do, to be his hands and his feet.

We cannot express enough our profound gratitude for what you have all done and continue to do. You are always in our prayers and we are thankful for the support, bonds, and friendships that have come out of the loss of our church/home.

God bless you all and may He bring you peace.

Prayers and gratitude,

Rosilda's kitchen volunteers



Praying Hands Ministry

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

Our prayers are “woven” into the shawl/ blanket.

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.

Questions? Robin Yates or Susan Howland, coordinators



3—Jace Reith-Lowery
 8—Robin Yates
 11—Emilynn Bousquet
 11—Linda Spooner
 14—Jared Burns
 17—Suzanne Sharp
 17—David Monroe
 17—Suzy Sharp
 20—Colleen DeMings
 20—Lucy Burns
 25—Braden Bullard
 29—Traci Stuart

Food Pantry Donations Needed



The Wales Community Pantry is a nonprofit organization located at 172 Palmer Road (Route 20) Brimfield, Massachusetts. We serve the towns of Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and surrounding communities.

Our once-a-month food supplement program services low-income families, senior citizens, the disabled, and veterans. We deliver food to those who are homebound.

**Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 AM-1:00 PM and
 Thursdays 4:00-7:00 PM**

Please check out the [Wales Community Pantry Facebook](#) site for any changes in hours due to inclement weather.

JOIN US FOR
Candlelight Prayer
 FIND YOUR QUIET
 IN THE NOISE

Who: Youth in Grades 7–12

When: Every Sunday 9:00-9:30PM*

Where: Holy Trinity Church

Step out of the weekly rush and into the glow!

This is a space built just for you to breathe, think, and look ahead to the coming week. We invite you to process the weekly themes and connect your spiritual life with your everyday world.

Each Sunday, the church will be lit by candlelight.

We will provide the backdrop:



Meaningful scripture and real-life stories



Calming music and songs



Space for silent, self-guided reflection

Upcoming Themes;

Identity: "Who Am I?"	Friendship & Belonging
Forgiveness	Hope
Gratitude	Courage
	Dreams & Purpose
	Making a Difference

*Time subject to change with sunset through the year.



*Come exactly as you are.
 Leave ready for the week*

August Mission Plate

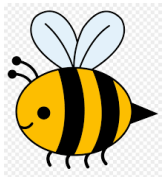


The Mission Plate offering for August will be a collection for **Friends of Navajoland**, a volunteer membership association of persons and entities established to support the Mission and Ministry of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland (ECN). Friends of Navajoland cultivates church-wide awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of Navajo Culture, traditions, and spirituality as complementary of Episcopal theology and the mission of ECN. In December 2016 Bishop David Bailey and the ECN Council established Friends as an unincorporated association and ministry of the ECN.

The Bishop and Council appointed individuals to serve on the Friends advisory board of directors, with board members and officers to include active Navajo leaders. Each board member is a proven church leader or a participant in a recent mission retreat or pilgrimage to Navajoland and has demonstrated a heart for ECN's work by donating resources or otherwise supporting ECN's ministry. The Friends' board of directors includes local Navajo leaders and other church officials, including bishops, from across the Church. The Friends board and executive committee, appointed by the Bishop, are the planning and decision-making body for Friends' projects and ministry. Friends of Navajoland encourages and promotes cross-cultural understanding and support of the ministry of The Episcopal Church in its Navajoland Area Mission. All financial donors to ECN, its Economic Development Corporation, or its churches are automatic members of Friends. If we have supported Friends of Navajoland in the past then we at Holy Trinity are members of this association.

For more information see the [Friends of Navajoland Website](https://friendsofnavajoland.org/), [<https://friendsofnavajoland.org/>], and the [Friends of Navajoland Booklist page](https://friendsofnavajoland.org/navajoland-booklist/) [<https://friendsofnavajoland.org/navajoland-booklist/>] if you are interested in learning more from Native American writers.

The Mission and Outreach Committee



Shared Summer Worship

August 2 10:00 Shared Service at Bethlehem
August 9 10:00 Shared Service at Holy Trinity
August 16 10:00 Shared Service at Holy Trinity
August 23 10:00 Shared Service at Holy Trinity
August 30 10:00 Shared Service at Holy Trinity
September 6 11:00 services resume at Holy Trinity

Campfire Night with BLC & HTEC
Thursday, August 20th ~ 6:30 PM

At Bethlehem Lutheran Church
345 Main Street Sturbridge, MA

Enjoy an evening by the fire in community with great people.
S'mores provided! Bring your own lawn chairs.



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton Street
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 Miguelina Howell

Sunday Service

10:00 a.m. Shared Service

Rite II Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Dan Purtell
Priest-in-Charge



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving