



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

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

A MESSAGE FROM FR. RICHARD

Dear friends,

Due to an accident of the calendar, February presents as a parable of faithful Christian living! A very early Easter makes the first Sunday this month to be the last Sunday of the Epiphany season. We confront the image of Christ on the mount of Transfiguration - showing the Glorious Return of Jesus to reign over all, with eternal justice and mercy. And three days later, on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of the "all-too-human" tendency to first see everything as it relates to "self." This seems a default setting for humans; the only shred of truth in the notion of ‘original sin.’

Why not meditate, instead, on “original blessings:” Creativity, affection, warmth, loyalty; etc.

There is so much fun in exploring other view points and other truth. So this month also confronts us with the spiritual challenge of Lent: to learn to live with Christ Jesus as the center of our life, and to be servants of justice and mercy for others. We don’t give up stuff, we take in more Christ. This calls us to learn to hone the structures of our "institutional religious life" to reflect the equity and freedom of Jesus. (Yes, girls can be acolytes, and Nuns can get pensions, local community can be lived to honor multiple cultures and traditions, marginalized voices can be counted when decisions are made.) Among the coins I have kept as mementos of places and travels, there is a 10-cent piece from Panama that remains the most prized; because it holds open the mystery of how much I have to learn, and be delighted by, a culture that is different and yet complementary. One begins to believe that our growing appreciation of diversity may be God's subtle handkerchief dropped in our path.....God's invitation to experience more Blessings than we imagined there to be!

Lent invites us to hold loosely the familiar to better embrace new expressions of God's life. Sounds like a party to me!!!! I remain, Faithfully yours in Christ,

(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore



“Soup”er Bowl of Caring - A Nationwide Movement Did you know???

...that the “Soup”er Bowl fundraiser HTEC has participated in over the last several years is not an isolated event? It is a national movement to use the energy around Super Bowl Sunday, to draw awareness and funds to those in need of food, clothing and shelter.

Mission Statement - Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need.

Vision Statement - Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

We believe:

The idea for Souper Bowl of Caring is a gift from God

- Young people have the ability to serve and should be given opportunities to lead their communities in helping others.
- Every dollar collected through Souper Bowl of Caring should be donated directly to a charity selected by each participating group.
- People of all backgrounds and beliefs can work together.
- Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities in which they live, yet there is joy in serving and giving to those in need.
- The excitement and energy surrounding the Super Bowl can be used to engage young people in service while producing lasting hope for all people.

For more information, visit www.Souperbowl.org

LENTEN



STUDY GROUP

ADULT/LENTEN STUDY PROGRAM

On February 3 we begin a Lenten Study program (that will extend into June!), with Bethlehem Lutheran Church, on the Old Testament. These will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at 7:00 PM. The location moves between HTEC, BLC, and homes of participants willing to host (hosting is not required to join the group). New participants are welcome as we set out on a fresh journey of discipleship, building our common understanding of the text and building a greater bond of fellowship in the Spirit.

Please see Fr. Richard for location and book information.

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Thank you for your contribution of food for the food pantry during January. The winter months very often find additional people accessing the food pantry. Please support this ministry in any way that you can – all donations are a blessing to those in need. On Feb 7, 2016 brown paper bags and a suggested shopping list will be on a music stand by the Narthex Doors. Please take a bag and shop from the list as you are able. Food returned by Sunday Feb. 28 will be blessed before going to the pantry that week. As we are blessed may we be a blessing.

Thank you for your continued participation in the ministry.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”.

Tamsin Lucey & Bill Nelson.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2–Tamsin Lucey
5–Nancy Waugh
18–Judy Reich
20–JoAnne Markey
23–Emily Waugh

If you have a birthday this month and are not listed but would like your name to be included in our monthly Tidings for birthdays, please contact the

ALTAR FLOWERS DURING LENT

Please remember that there are no flowers on the altar during Lent. If you would like to place a Vigil Light dedication, please complete the flower donation form on the table at the back of the church.



2015 Treasurer's Annual Report

Operating Budget

Income: overall income exceeded budget by \$12,161. Budget: \$121,714 Actual: \$ 133, 875

Why?

Once again Holy Trinity Parishioners are very generous!

Fundraisers: \$659 over budget.

Rental income exceeded the budgeted amount by \$1,654, not including the YMCA rent.

Trust income was up by \$962.

Other income over budget: checking interest \$597; Other Plate Offering \$4,909, along with other miscellaneous unbudgeted income.

Expenses: overall expenses were more than budget by \$17,329 . Some of this was paid from 2014 reserves.

Budget: \$121,714. Actual: \$139,043.

Why?

Many lines were under budget, some because the funds were not needed and others because of frugal spending. Clergy reimbursables were under budget by \$3,418; the funds were not called for.

Oil was \$892 over budget, but we have enough oil in the tank for our needs to last the year. This is due to the drop in oil prices.

The expense figure includes all the capital improvement expense for the undercroft ceiling and other projects.

Other lines were intentionally over budget and were paid with reserve funds and income over budget.

Non-operating Budget

The Non-operating Budget contains funds received that are outside of the operating budget and designated or restricted for a particular mission or purpose.

We received memorial donations in 2015 of \$1,065; \$1,800 was spent to purchase stations of the cross.

Outreach

\$360 was sent to Childreach/PLAN to sponsor Nicholas in Kenya.

The 2015 United Thank Offering was \$351.72.

\$505 was collected in the "big" bottle for "Change the Babies" project for the Mampong Babies Home in Ghana

The 2nd Sunday loose plate for Food Share was \$298.57 with an additional \$200 from the "Souper Bowl" soup sale.

The mission plate offerings were \$1,193.85, with \$1,191.85 given to various missions (Separate report)

Parrettie Alms given \$3,724.76

The Rector's discretionary fund inflow for 2014 was \$2,400, with \$2,941.27 given in alms.

Outreach Total \$9,573.17

The un-budgeted capital Improvements were taken from 2014 reserve fund and unspent and designated income.

YMCA Rental and direct expense will not be budgeted for 2016 and will be tracked under non-operating budget.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Howland, Treasurer January 2, 2016

CHURCH CHOIR

Please join the choir for Lent and Easter. Our rehearsals begin on Sunday, January 31st. We will sing on Ash Wednesday, Sundays in Lent, Holy (Maundy) Thursday, and Easter Morning.

Rehearsals are on Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. for warm up and review of the hymns, and after church at about 11:00 a.m. or so for 45 minutes to an hour of rehearsal time. You will have time to get some coffee and refreshment before we begin the rehearsal.

We will sing 3 or 4 part music, with some classical and contemporary Christian music. We will sing special anthems as we learn them and we will focus on special music for Holy week and Easter. If you have any questions, please speak to Anne or any past choir member.

Anne Bouvier-Monroe

FAMILY WORSHIP NEWS

Greetings from Family Worship! It's been a terrific start to 2016 and the season of Epiphany. Many families with children attended the Epiphany service on January 6 and heard the story of the Magi. We then shared communion "old style" with some children sampling the milk and honey. What a meaningful evening for all!

During FW, we have been exploring Jesus' life with familiar stories- the wedding feast of course! Did you know that we hear the SAME Gospel as YOU do when we are in Family Worship? Why then do we go our separate ways you ask? Well, children learn by playing and so we play, or craft, or act out the story after we hear it. Glitter does not easily come off the pews... Families share some time just for them during our lessons and it's the hope that families that play together, learn and PRAY together. However, we all feel it is important to be received back into the sanctuary after our service so that we may all share in the breaking of the bread. Intergenerational sharing of the Holy Eucharist- the best of both worlds! Lo and behold Lent will be upon us in a few days. We will have a craft table set up during the Mardi Gras Pancake Supper (Feb 9). Also we would like to invite you to our Valentine's Day Party right after church on February 14. Try to invite someone you love to church that day, even if it's just for the party. The kids will decorate and prepare special snacks for an extended coffee hour and will have crafts and a picture booth available. Please stay for a while and enjoy God's love!

In conclusion, Cat Reith-Lowery will continue to prepare and teach Family Worship through February. If you are on the rotation to lead, please come and assist Cat! Family Worship is for families and their children, up to 18 years of age. We look forward to seeing you all at church!

*Joyfully Yours,
Eileen DeMings*

**Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall
February 14 & 28**



**CONFIRMATION AND BECOMING
EPISOPALIAN GROUP**

"Being Episcopalian" Youth and Adult confirmation preparation and refresher in the basic beliefs of the Church will meet on Feb. 24th at 6:00 PM in Blakely Hall. Sessions are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. In February, the 2nd Wednesday falls on Ash Wednesday and services are held. The candidates are encouraged to share in the liturgy at 7:00 PM if possible.

**Collecting Change for Change the Babies
Helping the Mampong Children**

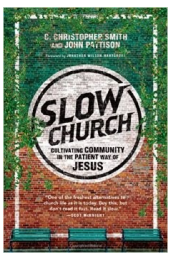
The water bottle, located on the Narthex Table on Sunday mornings, has some change in it! Please continue to bring in your loose change or empty your pockets at church!

Sunday Services inclement weather closure plan for Winter 2016

Every Sunday in February, weather permitting, there will be a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Please know that if, due to inclement weather, it is deemed necessary to cancel the service or hold Morning Prayer instead, and the means to do so is in place, an announcement will be posted on the Holy Trinity Web page, Facebook, and an all parish email sent out.

Please consider the road conditions and parking availability when making your decision to attend the service. If you are in any doubt please contact either the Senior Warden—Nancy Waugh 413-245-3307 or 413-883-4491 or Jr. Warden—John Grant 860-923-9691.



VESTRY BOOK STUDY FOR 2016

During the year 2016, the Vestry will be starting their meetings with a chapter-by-chapter reading of the text "Slow Church." This is a study on building deeper bonds through common effort and articulation of actions we can take together for Christ and our

community. If parishioners wish to study the text in a parallel effort (individual reading or with reading partners) we can grow a broader set of insights in the challenge of local ministry. Copies of the text are available on Amazon, or from Cokesbury Publishers.

CHILDREACH SPONSOR CHILD FOR 2016

The sign-up sheet has been placed on the back table of the church to help support Nicholas Onyango Okondo. Please consider supporting this important ministry by signing up to sponsor Nicholas for a month (or two) in 2016. The sponsorship is \$30.00 per month. A postcard will be mailed to you as a reminder that your donation is due.

Thank you!

Please make sure you note "Sponsor Child" on your check.

THE MISSION PLATE

" like streams of water in the desert.....I will lead them beside streams of water.....As the deer pants for streams of water."

The mission plate for February will continue to go towards providing clean water to a family or community through Episcopal Relief and Development. We consider water a basic human need, for without it, we turn to dust. And living in the desert of Arizona has given me a new appreciation for water - its value, its scarcity, and its dependence on climate and the changes we are experiencing around the world. the next time that you turn on your tap to get a drink of water, brush your teeth, take a bath or shower, remember how fortunate you are and how accessible the water is to you.

Many around the world do not have this luxury. Imagine a child drinking from a contaminated pool of water to quench his thirst, the probability of his become ill, and possibly even dying. Who of us would not give him that drink of pure water!

We can, through our generous offerings in the mission plate. Jesus gave us "living water" and with this "living water" we can do amazing things! Thanks be to God!

*Suzy Sharp
Green Valley, Arizona
[774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426)*



Sunday, February 7

There will be a wide variety of soup available for purchase in the parish hall after the service.

Suggested Donation:

Quarts: \$5.00; Pints: \$3.00.

Proceeds to go to Foodshare in Southbridge.

If you have any questions, or if you're interested in making a pot of soup for the event, please see Anita Bullard 508-353-4650 or Lana Pieczynski 704-458-6204 .



(Shrove Tuesday)
Pancake Supper

**Tuesday,
February 9**

Food served 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
in the undercroft (downstairs)
of the church.

Kids crafts available.



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Cordially invites you to join us for a

Community Valentine's Day Party

FREE FAMILY FUN!

**February 14th
11:00 a.m. to Noon**

*Come and celebrate God's
love and enjoy refreshments
and fellowship. Bring
someone you LOVE to Church!*



*This is a family event.
All children must be accompanied
by an adult.*

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT ANNUAL MEETING SERVICE 2016

Thank you for being here this rather cold and snowy morning.

As in previous years I will talk this morning of things not in my annual report – you have and can read that for yourselves – instead I share some reflections, hopes, prayers and dreams. This year – my 3rd yr. standing here, I do so with much joy and gladness – not because I will no longer be Senior Warden but because HTEC has come so far in the last 3 yrs. – we have accomplished so much together, I truly feel that what I was called to do, I have done and it is the right time to move forward...

Please indulge me a little - I would like to take you back to the annual meeting in January 2013 – immediately prior to that meeting there was a “huge” snow storm in the UK all of 4 to 6 inches if I remember correctly – but Heathrow airport was a total mess and my flight along with all the others was canceled – I got back to the USA, the day before the annual meeting at which I was to become Senior Warden for the first time. That Sunday found me sitting in the pews thinking – “Tamsin pay attention you are up next”! Nancy Waugh is sitting in the pews probably thinking similar thoughts. Thank you Nancy for your service as Junior Warden for the last 4 yrs. – they have prepared you well for this coming year. John Grant, our new Junior Warden, who served for the first time last year as a vestry member – I am sure that you are also thinking similar thoughts about being Junior Warden for the first time with a view to possibly being Senior Warden in 2 yrs. There is no need for either of you to worry. Remember that “God is Always with YOU”, Fr. Richard – currently priest in charge and who will become Rector this year - which means he will be permanent – i.e. we wouldn’t be able to change our minds about his being here! He is there for you as well. There will still be 3 previous Senior Wardens serving on the vestry and a couple more in the pews as well, they are there for you too. Lastly remember that YOU are LOVED, by God and this congregation – who will hold you in prayer and I am certain they will support you and respect you just as they have done for previous wardens.

This past year – and it may be that it seems as if it has always been so – but in fact it has just been for 12 months - we enjoyed a full complement of church staff for a whole year. Thank you Anne Bouvier-Monroe for your gift of musicianship, your guidance and leadership to those with musical gifts that have been shared with the congregation throughout the year. Thank also to Chris Bolte our parish administrator and Hector Chapa our sexton who both continue to work for us with diligence and take great pride in a job well done to benefit us: We are so blessed and fortunate to have such wonderful loyal and caring staff. Thank you Fr. Richard for a year of guidance, leadership and support, we look forward to welcoming you as Rector in the coming months and to moving forward together in ministry and mission as we continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit to seek God’s Will for us as the Hands and Feet of Jesus on Hamilton St. Thank you to the altar guild, acolytes, readers, Lay Eucharistic ministers and visitors, ushers, hospitality providers, the family worship team and the family worship lay leaders – you made all the services in 2015 possible. All our 2015 vestry members deserve thanks as well – Nancy Waugh, Susan Howland and Jean Frost as Junior Warden, Treasurer and Clerk respectively. Vestry members Peg Nelson, Anita Bullard, Bobbie Helbig, John Grant, Ellen Lincourt, Pam Graham, Lana Pieczynski, who joined when Ellen moved and Sally Baum who joined when Pam moved, all have served with diligence, humbleness and commitment. This past year we enjoyed a new sense of stability that allowed us once again to grapple challenges in our stride and to do so, willingly, confidently, and joyfully. It was a pleasure serving with you all. Thank you for making 2015 another great year at HTEC!

Last year started with **looking forward**, towards the end of the year I started using the phrase **moving forward** – Once again with a full complement of vestry members, we welcome new members, Rose Reith, Diane Nichols, Mary Bridget Burns, and Bill Pieczynski, who all said they were honored to be asked and excited to serve. Bart Krug and John Grant will be our delegates to Diocesan convention. We are really thrilled to have so many new people serving in lay leadership roles for the first time at HTEC. As I have said before new vestry members and lay leaders bring vitality, different perspectives and growth. Thank you for your willingness to serve. Welcome to the HTEC lay leader team.

As we move forward to 2016, we move to another new/different year, one with new Senior and Junior Wardens - Nancy and John – it will NOT be the same as the last 3 yrs. with Nancy and I as Junior and Senior Warden’s – things will be different. But that is good and all will be fine – we live in the real world, one that is constantly changing – we need to change as well! Nancy, Fr Richard and I have spent some time in the last 4 weeks discussing what the Senior and Junior Warden’s roles will be, moving forward with a part time priest in charge soon to be rector. This has included considering what roles other lay leaders can take on as we continue to share the work, of a small busy church with huge dreams, between lay leaders and part time clergy!

Continued on page 8...

Continued from page 7.....

I will still be on the vestry and will be keeping two other hats on as well – communications - both inside and outside the parish, and that of the building and grounds team. The Building and Grounds team, Susan Howland, Jean Frost, Nate Lowery and I will start to consider the next round of maintenance for the building. As we move forward to 2019 and the building's 150th anniversary. We will continue to be intentional with our stewardship of our inherited building: All the time being mindful of preserving it for generations to come. Keeping mission and ministry at the forefront, and that revealing the Light of God to the world and being the Hands and Feet of Jesus on Hamilton St. is what we are about and the reason we are here.

In 2014 I called your attention to the Rose window at the back of the church, in 2015 it was the Madonna window at the front – this year it is the candles – the candles made by the decorative wood work that adorn the space at the top of the walls at the front of the sanctuary. Take a look – can you see them – have you been looking at them for years and not realized what they are, or know what they are and just don't see them anymore because they are always there! These candles are decorative and functional, they are a constant reminder of the Light of God that shines in all of us and from all of us. Not everyone can see them, and sometimes we forget that they are there. Just like the Light of God within us. Sometimes we forget to let it shine out – for others to see! Sometimes the Light and Love of God within us is hidden in plain sight. We need to continually look for ways to let that Light and Love shine in the world, to share that Light and Love with the world. This year the vestry will be discerning ways that HTEC can move forward as disciples, as Disciples of Christ in Southbridge, sharing with our community, the Light and Love of Christ that is in all of us.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as Senior Warden these past 3 years - Thank you for your endearing trust in me – please now commit that trust to Nancy and John. I remain your humble servant.

Thank you, Tamsin Lucey

ANNUAL MEETING THANK YOU TO TAMSIN

Thank you Tamsin for your service for the last three years. As Sr. Warden you have been an inspirational leader during your term. Starting with stepping into the Sr. Warden's job when Holy Trinity was in a transition. You were responsible for scheduling supply priests and organists. Handling the details of funerals and pastoral care. A parish profile was developed during this time and the parish was wondering when we would be able to find a new priest. You kept everyone so well informed there did not seem to be any anxiety in the parish. You handled parish conflicts with grace and your attention to communication made the parishioners feel we were always moving forward with God's help.

When God sent us Fr. Richard you continued to make the transition to a part-time priest seamless. Probably one of the reasons Fr. Richard was attracted to the idea of taking on another parish was your strong leadership.

You were instrumental in making sure the parish developed a Mutual Ministry Document with position descriptions for clergy, vestry and the congregation. And if you could have asked the pilot on our flight to Florida to circle the airport so we could finish the document you would have. You pushed for a social media policy. You attended the safe serve training so Holy Trinity could get all the permits needed from the board of health. The building has never been more organized. Even yesterday I found you organizing the Resource closet. I think we actually gained square footage.

Another one of your gifts is the gift of making Holy Trinity Church known in the community. Most likely the reason the YMCA thought of Holy Trinity when looking for temporary housing. The relationship you developed with the West Street School was another reason we were approached to be a site for Project Bread. The sandwich boards with the upcoming events you always made sure were in front of the church and at the rotary.

You always explored every opportunity that was presented to you even if they were not the right fit for Holy Trinity. You were open to the possibilities. Whether it was to share our space with another church or be a space for the Kid's Club you were willing to listen. The experiment to use Holy Trinity as a host site for the Red Cross blood drive. You were never afraid to try something new.

You lead by example and I do not mean to say you did this all alone but you inspire those around you to follow your lead. I have seen you be a mentor to many helping to develop new leaders in the parish. You have also nurtured the relationship with Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Thank you for all you have done as Senior Warden for Holy Trinity.

Nancy Waugh

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unless otherwise noted

The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher
The Rev. Richard Signore

Save These Dates

Holy Trinity Church

Sundays in February—11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 3—7:00 p.m.—Lenten Book Study

Sunday, February 7—11:00 a.m.—"Soup"er Bowl Soup Sale

Monday, February 8—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, February 9—5:30 p.m.—Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 10—12:00 Noon—Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 10—7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 14—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Sunday, February 14—11:00 a.m.—Community Valentine's Day Party

Wednesday, February 17—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King Meeting

Wednesday, February 17—7:00 p.m.—Lenten Book Study

Wednesday, February 24—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation & Becoming

Episcopalian Group

Sunday, February 28—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

OFFICE HOUR CHANGE:

For the week of February 15, the office will be open on Tuesday only.

For the week of February 22, the office will be open on Thursday only.