



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!!

Be careful! Due to a confluence of lunar cycles Ash Wednesday is so early this year (Yes! Lent will start on Feb 10th, Easter by March 27!) that if you blink, you will miss it!!!

You do not want to miss Epiphany season. Epiphany (from the Greek: Epp - ee - fan - ah - rho - thane) or "appearing," is our time to marvel and celebrate the earthly manifestations of Jesus' work in our midst. It starts with the visit of the three Kings or Magi at the crib of the Christ child proclaiming Him as: Lord (Gold); Priest (Frankincense); and Offering [for sin] (Myrrh - the ointment for burial). This shapes and defines the coming ministry of the Messiah. We go on to celebrate Jesus' teachings, moral example, healings, and compassionate reaching out to our needs. Epiphany concludes with the story of the Transfiguration on the mount; a glimpse of the return of the Resurrected Lord to reign in Glory.

Savor renewed Grace on Epiphany evening (Jan. 6th) as we share our Epiphany Potluck Agape Meal with members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church (who will later adjourn with our bible study group to continue the current shared study). We will also host the 2016 service to commemorate the week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 2:00 PM on January 24th. The Annual Meeting will be the same morning during the liturgy at 9:30. These are themselves symbolic of the companionship of Christ as we draw alongside of others to experience a larger life of Grace, as we long for the reunion of all Christians around one common altar, in a life of shared worship, ministry and service. Epiphany has things to see, and things to become; so DON'T BLINK!!!

I remain, faithfully yours in Christ, (The Reverend) Richard S. Signore

Senior Warden Speaking

Merry Christmas 2015. A huge thank you goes to the Family Worship Players for kicking off the Christmas Season with Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens - a wonderful interpretation of the Nativity story with characters from current popular culture. Enjoy all 12 Days of Christmas! As we have now done for several years we will round off the Christmas celebrations on the 12th day of Christmas with a PARTY, going all out with much feasting and joyful noise-making. Wednesday, January 6th, come and join us in the parish hall for the Feast of Epiphany Celebration-our Epiphany Potluck Agape Meal. Details in this Tidings, on the Website, and Facebook.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church's Annual meeting is on Sunday, January 24th, details in this Tidings, and on the Website. Paper copies of the Annual Meeting Report will be ready for Sunday, January 17. Please collect one then or let the office know you would like a copy. The meeting will be held within the context of our 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service - your attendance will be a blessing to us all. I will be passing the Senior Warden baton to Nancy Waugh, who has accepted the call to serve as Senior Warden. Nancy will pass the Junior Warden baton to John Grant, who has accepted the call to serve as Junior Warden. Several new vestry members will be joining the team and new lay leaders continue to join various ministries. Please continue to pray for all those that make worship at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church possible.

God has much in store for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church: God provides all that we need, 2015 showed us quite plainly that to be true. Much happened to, with, and in our building in 2015, and we know that much more will happen in 2016! We also know that whatever God has in store for us - we will be challenged; we will rise to that challenge and, as always, be guided by the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your continued support and willingness to be Church in the 21st Century, as we move towards God's Promised and Preferred Future for us as the Hands and Feet of Jesus on Hamilton Street, Southbridge.

Snow - yes snow-that white stuff that may or may not arrive this winter. If it does, please know that we will implement the inclement weather plan for the winter, details of which are outlined in this Tidings and on the website.

Please continue to hold Fr Richard, Nina and family in your prayers.

If you have comments, concerns, or questions please know that I am available, as Senior Warden, until Sunday, January 24, 2016, and after that as a vestry member, via email abritinusa@gmail.com or cell phone 774 200 4279.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.
Looking forward, with gratitude and blessings
Tamsin Lucey

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

As we are blessed with food, we are blessed to share food and so we are a blessing to those who use the food pantry. Thank you to those who brought in food for the food pantry during December. On January 3, 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, January 31, will be blessed before going to the pantry that week. All donations are gratefully received and help make a difference in someone's life. 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".



*With Love, Peace and Joy,
Tamsin Lucey*



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3—Harry Theodoss
4—Roy Baum, Jr.
19 - Pam Graham
28 - Jonathan Khattar

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 office. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER
Tuesday, February 9, 2016**

CONFIRMATION AND BECOMING EPISOPALIAN GROUP

Young adults, their parents and anyone, irrespective of age, with questions about the Episcopal faith — this group is for you! This is your opportunity to ask questions!

The group will meet January 13 & 27 and will start promptly at 6pm and conclude at 7pm.

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!

November 2015 Financial Report

On the Income Side

- Pledges have caught up.
- Total income is over budget due to several areas: rental income, fundraising income, regular/ other plate offering, investment income, and there were designated gifts to the building fund.

On the Expense Side

- Aside from fixed expenses most of the budget lines are underspent; many only by a small amount.
- The Church repair and maintenance and capital expense are over budget and they are the most striking; much of the repair and maintenance expense was proactive repair to upgrade the church for better building utilization, and the capital expense was primarily for the undercroft ceiling, and other planned major repairs. The capital expense was reduced from \$36,312 to \$25,154.71 by the \$11,157.30 insurance payment, as that is not income, but a refund.

Looking at the statement of financial position will explain the balance in all funds: <http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org/holy-trinity-news-2/church-newsletter/>

We still have a credit of \$3,546.91 with Tasse, but it will be used to pay the bill to fix the age old heating anomaly in the parish hall/classroom wing. The heating pipes were re-routed so now when heat is called for in the classroom zone the parish hall does not heat up; and when heat is called for in the parish hall the classroom zone does not heat up; this has been an issue and a mystery...now solved! We also installed 3 programmable thermostats in the classroom wing so the YMCA can have heat when they need it and it will go off when they do not.

The 2016 balanced budget was approved at the December 14 vestry meeting.

A year-end summary will be included with the Annual Report in January.

Thankfully, Susan Howland, Treasurer



PLEASE JOIN US!



EPIPHANY POTLUCK AGAPE MEAL

Including Family Eucharist, in the Parish Hall

JANUARY 6, 2016

Friends and Families share supper, hymns, readings, and communion 'round the same table.

6:00 p.m.—Gathering Music

6:15 p.m.—Service

6:40 p.m.—Potluck Supper

Please bring a side or dessert to share. Beverages and meat-dishes provided.

This service and potluck supper celebrates the Eucharist in an informal, early Christian format.

This invitation is open to parishioners, their friend and family, and the community.

Please join us at whatever time works for your schedule.

RSVP by January 5 (helpful but not necessary) to Tamsin Lucey or Nancy Waugh

ALL PARISHIONERS INVITED TO **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETING** **SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016**

(snow date January 31)

8:45 AM-9:15 AM

Presentation of the 2016 budget, in the Parish Hall

9:30 AM

Eucharist Service incorporating the Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)

11:00 AM

Conversation & coffee in the Parish Hall

**Annual meeting reports available for all attending or by request*

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS



If you contribute to the Annual Meeting 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 17 therefore.....**All reports are due to Chris Bolte, the Parish Secretary, BEFORE January 6.** Thank you.

Sunday Services inclement weather closure plan for Winter 2013/2014

Every Sunday in January, weather permitting, there will be a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 p.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—Tamsin Lucey [508 347 1414](tel:5083471414) or [774 200 4279](tel:7742004279) or Jr. Warden—Nancy Waugh [413 245 3307](tel:4132453307) or [413 883 4491](tel:4138834491).

**“SOUP”ER BOWL
SUNDAY**
February 7, 2016
following the 9:30am service



Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall
January 10 & 24
When families come together to worship
with kids in mind.

**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 January and February will 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 for the next two months. 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:7742303426)

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Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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 January—11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 6—6:00 p.m.—Epiphany Agape Celebration

Sunday, January 10—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

Monday, January 11—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, January 13—6:00 p.m.—Confirmation & Becoming
Episcopalian Group

Wednesday, January 20—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King Meeting

Sunday, January 24—8:45 a.m.—Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 27—6:00 p.m. Confirmation & Becoming
Episcopalian Group