



# Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

## March 2017

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**Senior Warden:** Nancy Waugh  
Home: (413) 245-3307

**Junior Warden:** John Grant  
Home: (860)923-9691

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

### A MESSAGE FROM FR. RICHARD

Dear Friends,

Lent opens with Ash Wednesday. In that liturgy we receive an invitation to review the actions commonly taken in our days, and sifting with the wisdom of the heart, to ground ourselves in the transformative hope and life of God. I hope this is a deeply renewing experience for you this year, leading to a marked confrontation with the dying and rising God.

To make good Lent, I would like to recommend that you pursue those actions and practices that have made for peace, and a sense of reward, in your life. Cooking; gardening small shoots in your potting soil and foam cups, ready to transplant; visiting favorite places, claiming your personal dignity where you have been marginalized. If this helps you to enter into the mystery of new life, you will have made a good Lent.

Traditionally prayer, worship, scripture, acts of corporeal mercy have been the route to train the soul's eye to see possibility to act, resting in the Holy Presence. We will offer an active experience in prayer this Lent, as a corporate effort between Holy Trinity, Bethlehem Lutheran, and the new UCC congregation in Sturbridge. This will be offered Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, and will begin with a light soup and bread supper. Classes will be held at Bethlehem.

Choose the path that will allow you the deepest personal transformation, and may God Bless you as you journey toward Calvary. I remain,

Your friend and Rector,

(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore

## THANKSGIVINGS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

Thank you to Susan Howland and the finance committee for the presentation of the balanced budget at our annual meeting on January 29, 2017. Thank you to all you participated in the annual meeting.

The vestry will be attending the Parish Leadership Day on Saturday March 18, 2017. We invite anyone in leadership to join us. The Parish Leadership Day is at American International College in Springfield.

There is also another opportunity for continuing education on stewardship on March 24 -25, 2017 at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough. Please see me if you are interested in either of these events.

In April, the vestry will be having a retreat. Some of the questions we will be reflecting on are: How are we managing with a part-time priest? How can we best utilize Fr. Richard's time? What things can we do better with lay leadership? The vestry would like to hear from you with any ideas or answers to these questions.

Gratitude for all these blessings and thanksgivings for the time, talent, and treasure that Holy Trinity receives abundantly.

Nancy Waugh

Lenten materials will be available on the Narthex table on Sunday, February 26.



There will be a Lenten Prayer Study on Wednesdays during Lent at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 6:00 pm. The prayer study will start with a light soup and bread supper. For more information, please speak with Fr. Richard.

Join us for Family Worship in Blakely Hall

March 12 & 26



When families come together to worship with kids in mind.

### Office Hour Change Notice

The week of Feb. 27 the office will be open on Wednesday & Thursday.

### CHOIR NEWS

Choir will sing on Ash Wednesday; please arrive at 6:30. We will rehearse after church for Holy Week and Easter through the month of March. Rehearsals will start at 11:00 depending on what time the service ends. Once everyone has had their coffee, please come into the sanctuary for rehearsal. All are welcome.

### 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.

### CHILDREACH SPONSOR CHILD FOR 2017



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 2017. The sponsorship is \$33.00 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.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1–John Grant 2–Susan Grant 7–Laura Gervais 9 – Bridgette Bachand 9 – Jack Burns  
10 – Benjamin Normandin 12–Abigail Bullard 13–Sof Kollios 31–Christopher Ballou

*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!*

# Holy Trinity Church Financial Report January 2017

There are only a few comments this early in the year.

## Income

- The pledges are exactly up to date. The budget vs actual for this line will be over budget as we have two pledges pre-paid for the year; you can see that figure in the pre-paid pledge line on the statement of financial position.
- We budgeted 2 months YMCA rental income for 2017; month #1 was applied to rental income, and we will apply month #2 in July. The other YMCA rent payments go to a non-budgeted line for future decision; the YMCA is expected to move out in October, 2017.
- The trust income came in in January, so will be over budget until the end of March.
- For cash flow purposes, we are in fine shape.

## Expense



- Except for fixed expenses most lines are under budget as expected.
- All money not spent is put in a reserve fund for the future, either in the general reserve, fuel fund, insurance fund or other long term sub-funds.

## Other financial matters

- **Sexton.**
  - Hector gave his notice to leave on February 4. Advertisements are being placed for Hector's replacement.
  - Tamsin is working with Kevin from the YMCA to cover a minimum of cleaning in the upstairs for an hourly rate.
- **Oil**
  - As of Feb 1 we have used 2,572.25 gallons this heating season, or 14.78 gallons/day. We have 4,714.75 gallons available. We have \$ 10,299.76 in the fuel fund. We may look at topping off the tank if we can get a good price on oil.
- **Parochial Report**  
The Parochial Report will be submitted by March 1, 2017.

Blessings, Susan

### BABY SHOWER

 As you might remember 2 parishioners are expecting babies (both boys) soon. While no  formal baby shower will be organized, don't let that stop you from joining in the fun of giving a gift! We invite parishioners and friends of Holy Trinity to join the ancient tradition (the 3 Kings brought gifts for baby Jesus!) of bringing gifts to welcome the two babies in our midst. We would like to shower our expectant mother with the basic needs that every new mother needs - diapers (new born boy), baby wipes (fragrance free), clothing for newborn and up to 3 months, receiving blankets, blankets, towels, cotton balls, diaper bag, etc., gift cards to Walmart are always useful. We are happy to confirm that all the "large" items have been provided! Please talk with Tamsin Lucey if you have any questions:

[774 200 4279](tel:7742004279), [508 347 1414](tel:5083471414), or after church!

### Goodbye Gift for Hector Chapa

Hector Chapa has been our Sexton for the past 3 years. He has taken on a new job and can no longer work for the church. We wish Hector well and give thanks to him for all that he has done for us! He has worked tirelessly to keep the church neat and clean! If you would like to contribute to a goodbye gift for Hector, please place your donation in the plate and notate that the donation is for Hector. If you wish to write a check, please make it payable to Holy Trinity Church and note "Hector" in the memo. Please also make sure to sign the card on the back table. Thank you!

*\*Please note that this donation is not tax deductible.*

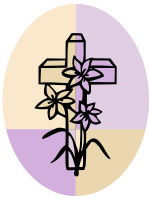


## THE MISSION PLATE

In January I attended an event in Tucson organized by the Lutheran churches. About 200 people showed up at the Tucson Convention Center to process and pack meals for an organization out of Minnesota called FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN. We were organized into a group of eight around a station, and each person was part of an assembly line which put dried vegetables, soy, rice and vitamin enriched powder into plastic bags that were then sealed and packed into boxes. Our table worked for two hours and put out nineteen boxes with twelve meals in each one! Altogether we all packed up enough food for 151 children for ONE YEAR! I was hoping that we could have tasted the meal, but in their presentation we saw pictures of the children gobbling the food down. The presentation before the work, the efficiency of the process, and the energy of the young people coordinating the event were impressive. I have even considered contacting them to set up an event in the Worcester area. So for the months of March and April I would like the Mission Plate donations go to this charity which sends food to all the vulnerable children of the world. It is an ecumenical organization and works with other non-profit and governmental agencies who deliver the food. Look them up on the internet. FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN gets an excellent rating per charities navigator. As I write this for the Tidings, you all are under a lot of snow! Take care, be safe, and wish I could send you some of the sunny and 80 degree weather we are having today! Spring is here in Arizona.

*Suzanne Sharp ([774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426)), 275 A Paseo Sarta, Green Valley, AZ 85614*

## EASTER MEMORIALS



This Easter, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for His blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office by **Sunday, April 2**. The donations collected for these memorials are used to purchase the flowers that decorate the sanctuary on Easter Day.

### **Exact wording of memorial will be:**

Easter gifts for flowers are given to the Glory of God...

\_\_\_\_\_ in Thanksgiving for the life of \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ in Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

If this gift is in Thanksgiving of a person who is living, choose the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of person or blessing)

given by \_\_\_\_\_

[Your name(s) - please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, say something like "by his family" or "by her husband" followed by your name or you may simply use your name(s).]

Please return this information sheet, along with your donation, to the church office or drop it in the offering plate by **Sunday, April 2**. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will off-set the cost of the flowers for decorating the church on Easter Day. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Church with the notation "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Do you know someone who would appreciate Easter flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so arrangements can be made to bring them flowers:

\_\_\_\_\_

## LOAVES AND FISHES

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Trinity Church,

In January we began something different! There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church. Individuals can now place their name next to a month, and they would bring food for the food pantry in during that month! The food donated can be one item, multiples of one item or everything needed for a meal or more, you choose what to give! More than one person can sign up for a month and you can, of course, sign up for multiple months. Please know that you do NOT have to sign up to bring food; anyone can donate any food at any time!

If you have any questions or comments - please talk with Tamsin Lucey, [774 200 4279](tel:7742004279) or [508 347 1414](tel:5083471414) or [Abritinusa@gmail.com](mailto:Abritinusa@gmail.com).



(Shrove Tuesday)  
**Pancake Supper**

**Tuesday,  
February 28**

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

Kids' crafts available.

Please contact John Grant if you  
are able to help. 860-576-2148

### **BIBLE AND WINE: A BIBLE BOOK STUDY**

*Jesus turned Water to Wine.  
We expect He will show up here.*

Study Book: **The Complete Idiot's Guide  
to the Bible**

By James Stuart Bell Jr. and Stan Campbell  
**Wednesday, March 15, 7:30-9:00PM**  
**Wednesday, March 29, 7:30-9:00PM**  
*Please see Fr. Richard for location!*

### **Sunday Services Inclement Weather Closure Plan for Winter 2017**

Every Sunday, 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 or  
860-576-2148.

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IS COLLECTING CANS AND  
BOTTLES FOR MISSION & OUTREACH. DONATIONS GO  
IN THE LARGE SILVER BOX IN THE PARISH HALL.**



**Wednesday, March 1**

**12:00 Noon - Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes**  
**7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes**

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
446 Hamilton Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550

## Holy Trinity Church

446 Hamilton Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550

**Office Phone:** (508) 765-9559

**E-mail:** holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com

**Web site:** holytrinitysouthbridge.org

### Office Hours:

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**

**Wednesday, March 1**—12:00 Noon—Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

**Wednesday, March 1**—7:00 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

**Wednesday, March 8**—6:00 p.m.—Lenten Soup Supper and Prayer Study @ BLC

**Wednesday, March 8**—7:00 p.m.—Vestry Meeting & Book Study

**Sunday, March 12**—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

**Wednesday, March 15**—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King

**Wednesday, March 15**—6:00 p.m.—Lenten Soup Supper and Prayer Study @ BLC

**Wednesday, March 15**—7:30 p.m.—Bible and Wine Study at BLC

**Wednesday, March 22**—6:00 p.m.—Lenten Soup Supper and Prayer Study @ BLC

**Sunday, March 26**—9:30 p.m.—Family Worship

**Wednesday, March 29**—6:00 p.m.—Lenten Soup Supper and Prayer Study @ BLC

**Wednesday, March 29**—7:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine Study at BLC