



NOVEMBER TIDINGS

Volume 6 Issue 11

November 2024

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
(pastordan.holytrinity@gmail.com)

Lynn Garland—Senior Warden
(508-801-4638)



A Reflection from Mother Judith

*The act of blessing is really a special way of paying attention.
It is mindfulness infused with gratitude.
It is a moment of remembering wonder as our primary response to the
world.
It is an act of consecrating time.*

--- Christine Valters Paintner,

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In a volume of story meditations titled *Taking Flight* Anthony De Mello tells the story of an old man who would sit very still in church for hours at a time. One day the priest asked him what God talked to him about. "God doesn't talk. He just listens," the old man replied. "What do you talk to him about?" asked the priest. "I don't talk either," said the old man. "I just listen."

Just as some of our most intimate and treasured moments are quiet time with the people we love, so time without words with God can be the most deeply renewing and meaningful form of prayer. We all have times when we don't know what to say, when we feel empty, when the words we've learned just don't sound right to us. This is no reason to turn away or give up. This silence is a sign that we are on the horizon of new understanding,

Instead of thinking of the silence of God as absence, we can recognize it as God introducing a new way of being together. Silence can be a form of blessing. It can be *an invitation to wonder*.

In this month of change and thanksgiving, I hope each of us— as individuals and as a faith community— can be a quiet space where trust and hope will grow. The days after Election Day will no doubt be tumultuous, and you are continuing to grow into a new ministry and partnership. The silence of faithful people is not the silence of fear or apathy. It is a *consecrated time*

Loving God

*It's strange, but I feel as if I can
stop talking to you
And simply be with you. I want to
be quite empty, quite still,
And then you can come slowly,
gently, filling me with yourself.
Come then, now—
The words end here.*

-Simon Bailey

From The Bread Box



A word or two of grateful thanks.....

On 2nd July 2016 the concept of The Bread Box was formed. Within just one week it became a distinct possibility, and 2 weeks later (after Holy Trinity agreed that my having a license agreement to use the undercroft kitchen was a possibility) the Bread Box was well on the way to becoming a reality. Thanks to the generous support and encouragement of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and its parishioners, the Bread Box flourished and grew to become what some might say was more than a full-time business. During COVID 19 when most small businesses were floundering The Bread Box flourished, offering home-baked foods with outdoor pick-up options and socially distant drop-off points. Through it all The Bread Box would have not been what it was without your love, prayers and support and for that I am so very blessed and grateful. Thank you for nurturing Hope. The end of an era has arrived and The Bread Box is retired! I look forward to the next part of my journey through life with Joy and Wonder.

Thank you very much for allowing me to grow a sustainable business and for supporting me unyieldingly through my Bread Box journey.

With every best wish and blessings
Tamsin Lucey

Winter Coat Closet

The Coat Closet will be open Saturdays from October 26 to December 14th.

Hours: 9:30—11:30 AM

Donations of gently used, warm winter coats for men, women & children are needed.
Please bring on Saturday mornings if possible.



- 6—Barbara Kalber
- 8 – Paige Spooner
- 8—Carolyn Wynkoop
- 17—Hope Wilson
- 23—Lana Pieczynski
- 23 – Josh Spooner
- 25 - Eileen DeMings

STEWARDSHIP BREAKFAST

The Vestry cordially invites you to the
Stewardship Breakfast and
Ingathering of Pledge Cards:
Sunday, November 17th
after the service



Mission Plate ~ November & December



The Mission Plate through December will go to Episcopal Relief and Development to support relief efforts for hurricane Helene. The Mission and Outreach Committee has decided to change funding for rest of this year to The Episcopal Relief and Development Fund for the survivors of Hurricane Helene. The impact of Hurricane Helene on September 26 and Hurricane Milton on October 9, is simply untenable. Hurricane Helene created life-threatening conditions through the Southeastern states of

Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Over two hundred people have been killed; many more are missing. Homes and other structures were destroyed by tornadoes, mudslides and severe flooding. There has been significant damage to infrastructure in roads, bridges, cell phone towers, etc. There are also significant communication issues due to a lack of cell services and power outages. Downed trees and other road blockages are preventing critical supplies, including medical ones, from reaching communities in need. Health concerns include scarcity of potable water.

The Episcopal Relief and Development Fund has been providing gift cards and distributing water, food, clothing, and fuel to families affected by the hurricane, during and since the first critical week after impact. "Our emergency responses are great examples of doing what we can to help people where they currently are," said Katie Mears, Senior Technical Specialist, Disaster Risk and Resilience, Episcopal Relief and Development. "As the stages of this disaster progress, people's needs will change, and we are prepared to accommodate them."

Due to the devastation of this storm, our committee has decided to continue to collect funds for this mission until the end of December. Please give what you can and keep the people affected by this devastating hurricane in your prayers.

Susan Grant, Mission and Outreach Committee

FESTIVAL OF GIVING TREES

This year we will team up with Bethlehem Lutheran Church to decorate a tree for The Festival of (Giving) Trees. The Festival of (Giving) Trees is a fundraiser for local cancer charities, which takes place at the LaSalle Center in Southbridge over the first full weekend of December each year. Our tree will be decorated with ornaments to represent our missions of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and being a place of shelter. There are a variety of ways to participate, requiring very little time or money. Please look for an electronic survey that will list the different options. Paper copies will also be made available. You can also speak to Eileen DeMings or Lynn Garland for further information.



You're Invited

Southbridge Food Share Open House

Tuesday November 19, 2024

10:00 – 11:30 AM (Remarks at 10:30 AM)



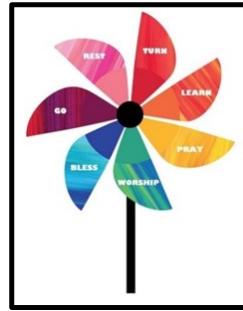
The Southbridge Food Share Pantry has been a vital part of Southbridge and the surrounding communities for 40 years. Each month we provide services to 200 families and 500 individuals; seniors and children are provided food to help prevent food insecurity. You have been a great help in our move to our new location. We would like to show our appreciation by inviting you to celebrate our new home. We want to share the results of your work, efforts and contributions. Southbridge Food Share Pantry and our community exemplify the saying

"It takes a Village."

All the best, The Volunteers & Board Members

Faith Formation

November	PRAY
December	WORSHIP
January	BLESS
February	GO
March	REST



November: PRAY

Prayer is one of the most important ways we can spend time with God. The Book of Common Prayer is an invaluable collection of prayers, but there are many ways to pray – in words, in silence, in singing or dancing or walking. Sometimes to pray is to be quiet and let your mind wander,

Say it: Luke 11:1-4; Luke 22:39, 42-43; Psalm 23:1-2, 4,6

Pray it: *Hi God! I am happy I can talk to you and hear from you any time. Amen*
Hi God. I'm so glad you are always listening—I can talk to you whenever I want. Today I have some things to tell you and some questions to ask . . . Other people need your love and I pray for them . . . Thank you. Amen.

Say your own prayer: Thank you . . . I'm sorry. . . Please Forgive me. . . I love you. . .

Live it: Pray with someone else

Write out the Lord's Prayer, and decorate it, hang it where you see it every day

Find a song that makes you feel that God is with you.

Upcoming Discussions: The Way of Love

December: WORSHIP	Discussion date & Facilitator TBA
January: BLESS	January 19 th , Dave Monroe Facilitator
February: GO	February 16 th . Heather Bousquet, Facilitator
March: REST	March 16 th , Lorraine Brumskine, Facilitator

Intergenerational Advent Night @ Bethlehem Lutheran – Watch for more information

Vestry Highlights: October 9, 2024

Resolved

- Provide financial support to persons who enroll in Education for Ministry Program, to be renewed annually
- To seal off the steam on the broken radiator downstairs, thereby preventing additional leaks
- To support the Girl Scout Troop #11507 Samaritan's Purse project

Discussion

- We will be looking for a new person who will lead our card ministry. This will involve sending cards to members of the congregation to mark special occasions and to assure them that we are thinking of them. We will provide the cards and stamps. Please see one of the Wardens if you feel called to help with this ministry.
- We ask that each person consider whether to stand for election in January.
- We are discussing with Bethlehem Lutheran our shared financial support for Pastor Dan in 2025



Stewardship Season: 2024: Walk in Love

Our Stewardship theme this year is *Walk in Love*, and it calls us to remember that our greatest gift in community is how we come together in purpose and mission. When we

walk in the same direction, we can do so many things.

During this season we talk a lot about money, about our budget. Yes, those things are important, especially for me being the Bookkeeper /Treasurer. Don't get me wrong: Financial contributions are the way we fund the Church, but our real focus is on what our gifts can do for the world.

This is why I would like to speak about mission. Jesus calls us to heal, visit, feed, accompany, protect, advocate, love our neighbor. Sharing our time, talent, and treasure is the way that we make this happen.

Our small community tithes its income. The mission accounts are in addition to our pledged income. I am always amazed when I add up all the mission accounts and the total amount is a tithe. Through the third quarter this year our income is \$100,190 and our mission accounts total \$10,230. You can't get much closer to 10 percent than that.

Our mission accounts are the Mission Plate, Food Share, Daughter's of the King, United Thank Offering, Mampong Babies Home, the Rector's Discretionary account and the Parrettie Fund. These accounts are a tithe of our treasure and are monetary. Our other donations that are not quantifiable are the food donations given to local food pantries, school supplies for the West Street School and Eastford Road School coats for the Winter Coat Closet and donations for shipments to Liberia.

The Mission Plate is the plate at the head of the pews. The Daughter's of the King manage the organizations that receive the funds with vestry approval. The requirements for the organization must be a 501C. At budget time the Daughters of the King ask the congregation for suggestions of charities to donate to. They are flexible and change designations, especially when a natural disaster occurs like the fires in Hawaii and the hurricanes in the South.

The Food Share is monies in the offering plate that are not designated or, as we refer to it, *loose plate* on the Second Sunday of the month. We are trying to be more



diligent about reminding everyone on the second Sunday.

Daughters of The King in the past have raised money for shipments to Liberia and now are donating to New Hope, Inc., which runs a shelter and programs for women who are victims of domestic violence.

The United Thank Offering is transferred to the diocese for the missions of the wider church community.

There are two opportunities to give to the Mampong Babies Home. One is by signing up at the beginning of the year to pay \$35 for one month. The second is to give your spare change in the large water bottle on the table in the Narthex.

The Rector's Discretionary fund is funded with a designated amount from interest from the Parrettie account.

The Parrettie account is funded with the interest earned on the account and is used for the poor of the Parish. The Parrettie Committee makes decisions for applicants based on need. Bills must be in addition to supporting missions that parishioners contribute to with their treasure. Parishioners also contribute time and talent to mission, for example to The Winter Coat Closet, Food Share, Friends of Saint Luke's and the Liberia project.

Each of us hears this call differently, just as each of us has been blessed by God differently. Our talents and training have been gifts freely given to us in Creation so that we may share them with a world in need. How will you feel God's call to walk in love this year? How will you determine how you will share your gifts with God's people in the world?

Pay special attention to both sides of the pledge form, and let us know what time and talent offerings you would like to learn more about this year.

Walking together in Love together with our mission makes a difference in our community and the world.

Nancy Waugh, Stewardship Committee



From Our Music Minister

Choir rehearsals will begin in November on Thursday afternoons at 4:00 PM to rehearse for approximately one hour. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us for rehearsal, no experience necessary. We usually sing 2- or 3-part anthems and occasionally we sing the melodies only.

We are preparing the music for Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas.



Food Pantry:

Our donations in November will go to the Bridge Fridge in Southbridge. Our focus will be on nonperishable food for Thanksgiving and the holidays.



Dates to Remember

Sunday November 10th
9:00 am—Bluegrass Service
12:30 – 2 pm.

Hearty Harvest Hardy Har Har Hoedown

Monday November 11th
7 pm Council Meeting

Sundays in November: The Way of Love: Pray



November 3rd All Saints Sunday

Pastor Dan returns from Sabbatical

11:00 Family Worship

Stewardship Reflection: Tamsin Lucey

Noon Festive Coffee Hour to welcome Pastor Dan

November 10th 25th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Bluegrass Service at Bethlehem Lutheran

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Stewardship Reflection

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Hearty Harvest Har Har Hoedown at BLC

November 17th 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Ingathering

10:00 am Discussion: The Way of Love-PRAY , Rose Reith, Facilitator

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Stewardship Reflection: Lynn Garland

Noon Coffee Hour to celebrate The Bread Box & Tamsin Lucey

November 24th The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King Sunday

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday November 26, 2024 ~ 7 pm

Hosted by

The Federated Church of Sturbridge



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Office Phone: (508) 765-9559

E-mail:

holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com

Web site: holytrinitysouthbridge.org

(trinity)

Office Hours: *unless otherwise noted*

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. —1:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. —1:00 p.m.

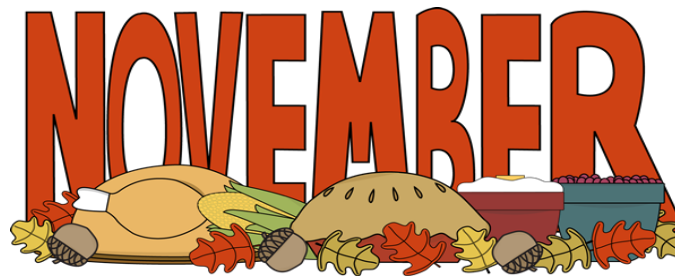
**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

11:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

**Priest-in-Charge
The Reverend Dan Purtell**



Website



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Tithely—Giving