



# DECEMBER TIDINGS

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## A Reflection by your Priest –in –Charge



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Beloved Siblings in Christ,

First off, let me just say how good it is to be back! In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I have so much gratitude for the way you all continued the ministry you have been called to while I was away on sabbatical. It was a beautiful time away, one filled with renewal and refreshment, and I'm looking forward to sharing more with all you and the folks at Bethlehem after the holiday. I would also like to be intentional in saying thank you to Mother Judith for being a holy presence and continuing her ministry with all of you while I was away.

As we enter into this season of Advent and a time of anticipatory waiting in hope, I've been reflecting on the time I spent in the Cascade mountains at Holden Village in Washington State. The first night I was there, I sat outside near the center of the village and soaked in the beauty that surrounded me. Holden Village is nestled in a valley of the Cascade Mountains and its stone peaks. As I stared in wonder up at the peaks, I watched the light of the day fade behind the mountains and as the darkness moved the stars began to emerge. Now let me tell you, you haven't seen stars until you have seen them in the Cascade mountains. In the midst of the beauty that surrounded me and the stillness of that night, I was reminded that even in the midst of a chaotic world, beauty still exists and hope endures. In the silence, and beneath the stars, I could see and feel the presence of God, a presence that is still at work, even when we have a hard time seeing it.

In the midst of this season and the hustle and bustle that comes with it, I'd invite you to find some time for beauty and stillness, time to recognize the presence of the divine and in the midst of a season that is often pulling us in so many different directions.

Keep watch and stay awake for the ways God is showing up in your life.

Advent Blessings,

Pastor Dan



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## Calling all Carolers!!

On December 8th,  
after Coffee Hour,

Dave Monroe is organizing a  
Carol Sing!

We plan to travel to the homes of  
2 or 3 of our

parish members who are  
homebound and sing Christmas  
Carols with them.

We did this last year. It was fun  
for us and greatly appreciated by  
the people we visited.



# CAROLING



## BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Heather Bousquet
- 4 – Marion Piltzecker
- 11—Mick Kalber
- 11—Violet Spooner
- 11 – Mary Bridget Burns
- 17 – Bill Pieczynski
- 25—Jesus Christ
- 25—Ed Bair

## Annual Parish Meeting Coming in January



## A message from our Music Minister

We will have special music by the choir and our talented musicians in our church. Lynn Garland will sing a solo, Joe DiSalvatore will play for us on Christmas Eve. Susan Howland will be singing and playing the harp on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Please take time out of your busy schedules to join us for the true reason of the season. Our services are at 11:00AM on Sunday and our service is online on Facebook.



*The Last day for Winter  
Coat Closet is  
December 14th*



## Daughters of the King

For His sake,,I am but one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
What I can do, I ought to do.  
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.  
Lord, what will you have me do?

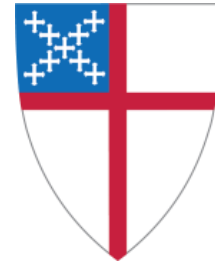
The Daughters of the King, would like to take this time and let you know about what we have been doing since the re-induction of Judy Reich back into our Order. We have been busy in a couple of areas. First, in our study program, we have been reading "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World". Our discussions have been very interesting and eye-opening. Last month's chapter had us reading about a man whom God asks to carry a load of rocks up a mountain in a wagon. (Sound familiar—Mother Judith's sermon). The man was thrilled to do what His Lord asked of him. Along the way he collected more items to place in his wagon. These were favors to "help" friends he met along the way. At some point, he became overwhelmed and could go no further!! He was exhausted and told Jesus he could not go on. (Do you recognize yourself? We sure did)! God asked the man why he was so tired? The man told Jesus how he was helping his friends. And, as Jesus took the burden of others out of the wagon, the wagon became lighter. Jesus said; "I know that you were trying to help but, when you are weighted down with others' burdens, you cannot do what I have asked." "So, if you would be content to let others carry their own burdens, I will help you with your tasks". This is not to say that God does not expect us to help our brothers and sisters in need but rather to prioritize what we do, so that we will be able to do what God has called us to do. Everyone in this life needs help at some point in their lives. However, if we focus our Hearts & Minds on what Jesus asks us to do, He will help; "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light. I will never ask you to carry more than I will give you the strength to bear." As you all know, the Daughters have adopted New Hope as the focus of our new mission work. The individuals served by New Hope, (an agency that provides support for women and children leaving situations of domestic violence), did not ask for the situation they are now facing, but we can help them through our donations. In discussion with Christine Gaze, from New Hope, she suggested \$25.00 gift cards to Walmart. This would enable each Mom to get what she needs for a Christmas gift for her children. The Daughters have decided to contribute to the funding of these gift cards amongst ourselves. Christine also gave us a list of the most needed items: **Baby wipes, Diapers (all sizes, especially 5 & 6\*\*, college ruled notebooks\*\*, Adult coloring books\*\*, Hooded sweatshirts and sweatpants for teenagers\*\*, sweatpants /sweat-shirts( men & women all sizes)\*\*, Hand soap/Listerine/toilet paper\*, Paper towels/Paper goods/Plastic silverware\*\*** Since The Daughter's have taken on this Mission work as a chapter, we are not soliciting donations from the congregation. but rather updating you on our mission. However, if you feel called to give a donation, please feel free to talk with one of the Daughters. Lastly, we have informational fliers about New Hope that we will be placing in our Church bathrooms and local stores. If you have an idea of a place that we should consider hanging a flier, please speak with one of the Daughters.

God's Peace and Blessings be with you and your families,

FHS Robin Yates; President, Mary & Martha Daughter of the King



## HOLY TRINITY ELECTIONS COMING UP IN JANUARY



During our annual meeting in January we will be electing our church lay leadership, vestry members and convention delegates. The vestry thought it would be helpful to review this process so all members have the information to be able to participate in a fully informed way. The elected positions are:

Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary,  
Vestry Members and Convention Delegates,

all of who must be confirmed members of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in good standing.

Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary are one year terms. Each person may choose to stand for re-election for an indefinite number of terms or stand down when they feel it is time to do so. Vestry members serve a three year term. They may choose to stand for re-election for a second three year term but after that they have to go off for at least a year before serving again as a vestry member.

Your current elected leaders are: Lynn Garland, Senior Warden; Susan Howland, Junior Warden; Nancy Waugh, Treasurer; and Jean Frost, Secretary. All are willing to continue to serve and are standing for re-election. The vestry members whose three year term is ending are John Grant and Cat Reith-Lowry. Both are willing and eligible to continue to serve a second term.

All of these positions can be challenged. If anyone has concerns and feels someone else would do a better job, another name can be brought forward in an election challenge for the congregation to decide. We encourage each person to actively consider this information. It is important for the health of our congregation that we have fair and open elections.

We elect two convention delegates; one must be a vestry member and the second any confirmed member of Holy Trinity. Convention delegates serve for one year.

In 2025 Delegates attend a two-day convention in early November, that is usually held in a central location around the Springfield area.

**To submit a name for any position, just let Pastor Dan or any vestry know.**

### Christmas Memorials

During Christmas services this year, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for the blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office **by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. The money for these memorials is used for flowers given to God’s glory as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

**Exact wording of memorial will be:**

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

**If this gift is in memory of some one who has died, choose one of the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ *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 for a living person, choose the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ *in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of person or blessing)

***ALL DEDICATIONS: PLEASE NOTE WHO THE MEMORIAL/THANKSGIVING IS GIVEN BY:***

*Given by* \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name/Names

(Please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, use “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 offering (no donation is too small), to the church office or drop it into the offering plate by **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please make checks payable to **Holy Trinity Church** with the notation ***Christmas Memorials*** on the memo line.

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



### Greening the Church



Join us in the age-old tradition of greening the church.

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

We will decorate the sanctuary with “greens” adorning the windows, pews, Advent wreath, lectern and altar. Bringing the symbol of life into the sanctuary is an age-old tradition symbolizing the new life in us as we celebrate

Christ’s birthday.

### Winter Parking on Hamilton Street

From December 1 through April 1, Southbridge limits parking on Hamilton Street

On EVEN dates: Midnight to 7pm, park on the ODD side of the street;

7pm to midnight park on the EVEN side of the street.

On ODD dates: Midnight to 7pm park on the EVEN side of the street;

7pm to midnight park on the ODD side of the street.





**December Dates to Remember – Advent**



- Sunday 12/8                                      Christmas Caroling to home bound after 11 AM service
- Friday 12/13 7 PM                              Blue Christmas Service at Bethlehem
- Wednesday 12/18 7 PM                      Holden Evening Prayer Service at Bethlehem Lutheran
- Tuesday 12/24 4 PM                            Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service at Holy Trinity
- Tuesday 12/24 9 PM                            Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Bethlehem Lutheran
- Sunday 12/29 10 AM                            Lessons & Carols at Bethlehem Lutheran

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(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Services**  
**11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

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



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving