



JANUARY TIDINGS

Volume 7 Issue 1

January 2025

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A Reflection from your Priest-In-Charge

Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, ¹²the Lord. Luke 2: 10-11

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

As we turn the calendar heading into 2025, we do so with the great anticipation and hope. 2024 was a year of major transition, one that saw a new partnership emerge between the congregations of Holy Trinity and Bethlehem after a long history of shared ministry. The new year presents new opportunities for us to continue to expand and grow this partnership, but above all else it provides an opportunity to nurture and grow new relationships between the two congregations. It truly was joy to begin shared worship services at the end of December with shared Christmas Eve services and a shared lessons and carols service. You could feel the spirit in the good energy that was flowing in those services. I'm certainly looking forward to more of those opportunities as we continue to immerse ourselves in this new relationship.

Having just finished celebrating our first Christmas together, I am reminded of the words that we hear every year from the gospel of Luke: "Do not be afraid, for see I am bringing great joy for all the people". As we continue on in this partnership, these verses remind us what it's all about. Centered in Christ, we been have called into the world, grounded in this good news, to share the love of Christ that showed up in a lowly manger on a night long ago.

Let us be vessels for that love this year, in our partnership, in our outreach, in our mission, in this community, and with our neighbors. The world needs love right now, and we have the opportunity as followers of Christ, as a community of faith to freely give it, in a new and exciting way.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Dan



January & February Mission Plate

The Mission Plate funds for the months of January and February will be going to the Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC) Fuel Assistance Program. This program aids limited-income homeowners and renters in paying their home heating bills. WCAC's Fuel Assistance Program serves all of our local communities (cities and towns) within Central Massachusetts. Well over 10,000 households obtained fuel assistance through WCAC last year.



This year's economic picture for many of our vulnerable local families isn't any brighter than last year. With rising housing and food costs and escalating utility and heating costs, many people in our local area are struggling to afford to keep themselves warm this winter.

Please, give as generously as you can to this program. No one should be left in the cold during this time of crisis. Thank you.

Lorraine Brumskine

Winter Coat Closet

An Ecumenical Project in its 17th Year



Dear Ecumenical Friends,

The Winter Coat Closet was open for 8 weeks and had a very busy season!

Through your congregation's support and our community's generosity, we helped 178 people who came in seeking coats for themselves and their families. This totaled 362 warm winter coats given out, as well as countless hats, scarves and gloves.

How much joy we get when we see the smiles on the faces, especially the children. It is such a simple mission but so important with the high costs of food, clothing and other essentials. A special thank you to Holy Trinity Church for the use of their building. On behalf of our terrific volunteers, thank you all so very much. Please share this with your congregations as you see fit. Have a blessed Christmas and wonderful New Year,

Chris McTigue, Coordinator

The Winter Coat Closet



BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Karron Lacey
- 3- Harry Theodoss
- 27- Nicholas Sargent



Annual Report Deadline

If you contribute to the Annual 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 19, therefore.... All reports are due to the Parish Administrative Assistant **BEFORE January 9th.**

Sundays in January: The Season of the Epiphany

- January 5** **The Feast of the Epiphany**
11:00 am **Family Worship—Three Kings Christmas Play**
- January 12** **2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**
11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**
- January 19** **3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**
Marting Luther King Weekend: Prayers for social justice
- January 26** **4th Sunday after the Epiphany**
Annual Parish Meeting
Holy Eucharist in the Parish Hall



**Donations for January will go to
The Bridge Fridge.**

Bethlehem News

*Save the Date! Sunday, January 19th at 9:00 AM
Bluegrass Service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church*



Bethlehem's Closet is located at

33 Central Street Southbridge, MA 01550

Our Current Hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
9:00AM to 2PM

*If you have a donation for the closet, clothes can be dropped off at
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.*

FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A big thank you and blessings to all the people who participated in the music program at Holy Trinity Southbridge during Advent and Christmas. The choir is small, but mighty and worked hard to give us special music during Advent and Christmas. We rehearsed on Thursday afternoons at 3:30, plus they arrive early before church to rehearse. Thank you for your dedication.

Lynn Garland sang solos for us during the season and I hope will continue for our special seasons coming up. Your singing is always an inspiration for us. Susan Howland did a beautiful solo with harp and voice on the fourth Sunday in Advent and is one of my favorite Sundays because it is traditionally Mary's Sunday. Thank you to Joe DiSalvatore for playing his clarinet on Christmas Eve during communion. The Candlelight Carol by Rutter is a beautiful anthem. If you have not listened/heard it here is a link for the [Candlelight Carol](#), sung by the Cambridge Singers. Enjoy!

There will **not** be any choir rehearsals during the month of January on Thursday afternoons. Choir will resume in February.

Thank you to the Vestry and our Congregation for the Christmas bonus I received this year. It arrived at the right time when my need was the greatest.

May we keep singing in our hearts and minds to the glory of God and Jesus as we celebrate this season of light called Epiphany.

Blessings,
Anne M Bouvier-Monroe,
Music Director



Daughters of the King

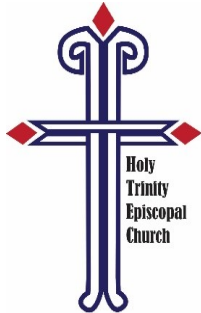
Merry Christmas!! The Daughters would like to update you on our most recent activities. As I mentioned last month, the daughters have been active in ministry with New Hope, a shelter for survivors of abuse & their children. This year we were able to purchase twelve \$25.00 gift cards for New Hope residents, along with donating a very large amount of supplies (paper towels, sheets, shampoo, personal items, adult coloring books, wipes, etc). These gift cards & donations were delivered to the residents of the Worcester Shelter!!!. We would like to thank those who helped us with donations to The New Hope Ministry. We look forward to a New Year of Ministry with New Hope!

God's Peace & Blessings be with you all!

FHS Robin Yates, President; Mary & Martha Chapter



ANNUAL MEETING



ALL PARISHIONERS INVITED TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH'S

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

snow date February 2

AM Presentation of the 2024 budget, in the Parish Hall

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist incorporating the Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary

AM Conversation & coffee in the Parish Hall

*Printed annual meeting reports available by request

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

[Isaiah 43:19]

Inclement Weather Plan: Winter 2025

Every Sunday in January and February, weather permitting, we will hold a service of Holy Communion at 11:00 am that will be livestreamed on our Facebook Page. Please know that if, due to inclement weather, it is deemed necessary to cancel the service, an announcement will be posted on the Holy Trinity website

(www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org) and on our Facebook page, and an all-parish email will be sent out. Please consider the road conditions and parking availability when making your own decision to attend the service. We will continue to livestream our service every Sunday on our Facebook page, and the recorded service will be available on our website every week.

Please note that during a snow emergency Hamilton Street is an emergency route and NO parking is allowed on either side.

Parking regulations: alternate side parking on Hamilton Street December 1-April 1:

- At 7:00 pm on odd-numbered days park on the odd side of the street until 7:00 pm the following day.
- At 7:00 pm on even-numbered days park on the even side of the street until 7:00 pm the following day.



Youth Group Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 19 10:00AM at Fellowship Hall BIG WAY of LOVE cards "Bless" activities.

February 7, 2025 4-7PM Rosalida Kitchen/Methodist Church Southbridge with the combined youth group to work on the supper.

March 8, 2025 6-9 PM GAME NIGHT at Holy Trinity Church, Fellowship Hall, with more information to follow. This is a combined activity with BLC and HTC.

May 18, 2025 3-9 PM Cathedral in the Night, Northampton, MA. combined youth group of BLC and HTC. More information is coming.



Vestry Highlights– December

- The Vestry approved the budget for 2025.
- The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was well attended at the Sturbridge Federated Church. Several members from Holy Trinity and Bethlehem Lutheran were in attendance.
- There were a half dozen Christmas Carolers that went out after church on December 8th to bring Christmas cheer to a few who were unable to get to church.

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(trinity)

**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



Facebook



Tithely—Giving