



# HOLY TRINITY NEWS

December 2018



December 2018

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Let me begin by thanking you for once again generously stepping up. With pies for Suicide prevention, receptions for the loss of loved ones dear to our parish, and so many other things, including your response to the Stewardship season, I am thankful. Only a few folk, who regularly give, have been unable to turn in their pledge as of this writing. In fact, 13 of you not only turned in a pledge but also increased your giving! Thank you so much. We also have three brand new pledges too! I'm excited because it is further evidence of our "transformed generosity" (the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign).

As we enter the season of Advent and then into Christmastide, we are "coming" (Advent means coming) into our spiritual roots and the essentials of our faith. A faith that heralds hope in the midst of the harsh. A faith that speaks of love that is unconditioned by the world, and lavished as an example to us by our Creator in Jesus the Christ. This same Faith has a King born to royal blood in the manger of a barn. Why? So he could come and experience every aspect of our lives, and show you that you are worth what he has and will do. It is a season of the coming of Jesus, the coming of Easter and the coming of Jesus again, all wrapped into one time. Despair leading to hope, fear leading to joy, and death leading to life. Transformational Generosity achieved as an example for us, by this Jesus, Son of a carpenter and a Virgin. He was transformed that we might live transformed lives.

Thank you again for showing **your** transformational generosity to your God and your Church. Happy Advent!

Love in Christ, Father Rob

## Upcoming Events:

Sun Dec 2 – Advent Wreath Making With after the 10 am service

Tues Dec 4 – 5:30 pm Vestry

Sun Dec 9 – **ONE SERVICE ONLY 9 am-** Dedication of the kitchen following the service. Please bring fruit or fruit salad to share.

Tues Dec 11 – 2 pm Eucharist At Homestead

Sun Dec 16 – Greening of the Church after the 10am service! All hands on deck for the festivities! Much to do for the kiddos and adults!

Fri Dec 21 – 6 pm Memorial Service for Brett Lucia; potluck reception following in the Parish Hall

Mon, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve

4 pm Paper Bag Pageant

9:30 pm Choral Prelude

10 pm Christmas Eucharist; Festive Reception following

Sun Dec 30 – One service only. 9 am Lessons and Carols

Sun Jan 6 – Feast of the Epiphany.

11:30 Adult study

Sun Jan 20 – ANNUAL MEETING



Dedication of Parish Kitchen to Bonnie

Sun, Dec 9

One service at 9 am

The kitchen will be dedicated to our Bonnie

Please bring fruit or fruit salad

## Mitten Tree

We are collecting mittens. Please bring in mittens of all sizes to be distributed to those who need them this winter. There will be a tree set up on which to hang them.



## Christmas Flowers

There will be envelopes on the sideboard for Christmas flowers. Please fill out the front of the envelope as to memorial or thanksgiving. Put them in the plate so that Casey can get all the details in the Christmas bulletins. Thank you.

## November Vestry Meeting

Presenter from Maple Leaf IT. Options regarding video live streaming into parish hall (in cases of overflow)

Steeple renovations are completed

Fr. Rob will be gone the 19th-23rd. Fr. Craig will be covering pastorally if needed.

Pledge forms are available - please make your 2019 pledge

Approval of draft of plaque dedicating the kitchen to Bonnie Fournier

Christmas Eve Services will be at 4:00 & 10:00 pm



Memorial Service for Brett Lucia

Fri, Dec 21, 6 pm

Potluck reception following in Parish Hall  
Join friends and family & Steve St Onge as we celebrate the life of his partner

## Singing the Psalms

### Why do we SING the Psalms?

- Because the Psalms were intended to be sung. The book of Psalms is a song book.
- Because the people of God have been singing them since Old Testament times.
- Because Jesus sang them. He would have learned to sing them in the synagogue.
- Because the apostles sang them. We read in the epistles that Paul encouraged the singing of "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs."
- Because the Church for centuries has sung them.
- Because participation of all the people in the liturgy, including the singing of the Psalms, has been restored in modern times.

### What are some of the ways we sing the Psalms at Holy Trinity?

- Metrical paraphrase with familiar hymn tunes and other melodies
- Plainsong
- Simplified Anglican Chant
- Antiphonal settings (alternating between the Choir and the People)
- Responsorial settings (refrain sung by the People, verses sung by the Choir)
- Simple chant (mostly monotone; one, two, or three notes)
- Hybrid forms of the above
- Original compositions, such as a choir would sing

### Why CHANT?

Chant is sung speech. The repetition of short, uncomplicated melodies and the occasional use of refrains or antiphons allow the words of the Psalm to be the focus. The Church has long used different methods of chanting the Psalms, because a chant fits itself to the words as they are. So a chant can be used to sing any Psalm.



## Adult Bible Study

Bible Study completed the reading of *The Path* and the conversations that ensued. "Graduation" was a couple of weeks ago and Kay made beautiful bookmarks in celebration of our finishing. A big thank you to all participants and to Kay for the beautifully styled bookmark.

As we approach Epiphany in the new year beginning on Sunday, January 6, Bible Study will explore the parables of Jesus. The title of the book we will be engaged in is *The Parables For Today* by Alyce McKenzie. We will begin on January 6th and end on February 24th. Books have been ordered and we will gather at 11:30 after coffee hour in the chapel.



## Thanksgiving Dinner

Joyful and delicious was the Thanksgiving dinner at the church – familiar faces, new faces – everyone brought delicious food and wine to share and the before and after help was THE BEST!



Celtic Potluck & Liturgy  
Wed, Dec 12, 5:30 pm  
St. James', Essex Jct



## 1 Corinthians 13 (Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

the silk worm :: rumi

I stood before a silk worm one day.  
And that night my heart said to me, "I can do things like that, I can spin skies,  
I can be woven into love that can bring warmth to people; I can be soft against a crying face, I can be wings that lift, and I can travel on my thousand feet throughout the earth, my sacks filled with the sacred." And I replied to my heart, "Dear, can you really do all those things?" And it just nodded, "Yes" in silence.

So we began and will never cease.

Search for the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the  
Episcopal Church in Vermont  
Timeline

Fall 2018 – receive & prayerfully review  
applications of potential candidates

Nov 16 – Deadline for applications

Winter 2018 – discernment of candidates

Mar 2019 – Slate of final candidates  
announced

April 28-May 1- Walkabouts; candidates  
visit all corners of the diocese

May 18 – Electing Convention

Sept 28 – Consecration of the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop  
of the Episcopal Church in VT

**The convention delegates we elect in  
Jan. at annual meeting will attend and  
vote at the electing convention on May  
18<sup>th</sup>. Keep this in mind as you nominate  
folks to be convention delegates.**



**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
38 Grand Ave, Swanton, VT 05488  
Office 868-7185**

**Office: holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net**

**Website: holytrinityswanton.org**

**Holy Trinity Staff:**

**The Rev. J. Robert Spainhour  
holytrinityrector@myfairpoint.net  
Cell 843 343-6871 Rectory 868-6757  
Fri. is ordinarily Fr. Rob's Sabbath**

**Administrative Asst: Casey McNally**

**Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am- 2 pm  
holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net**

**Bookkeeper: Shelley Robtoy  
holytrinitybk@myfairpoint.net**

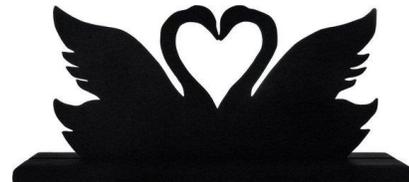
**Facilities Manager: George Plante  
868-7185**

**Sexton: James McDonald  
802 582-5596**



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Tyler Robtoy
- 5 Harry Moulton
- 8 Zachary Ries
- 9 Cody Shand
- 10 Marguerite LaFlam
- 12 Sarah LaFlam
- 18 Lynda Bruyette, Talyiah Patterson
- 22 Amy Giroux
- 24 Ryan LaFlam
- 26 Sandi Kenyon
- 31 Eamon Murphy



**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10 Marianne & Steve Marshall
- 18 Sandi & Chuck Kenyon
- 28 Kay & Chaunce Benedict



**In New Life**

**Nov 7**

**Brett Lucia**

May the souls of all the  
departed,  
through the mercy of God rest