



## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

MARCH 2018



### Father Rob's Reflections

March 2018

Dear Parish Family,

As you know, the Vestry Retreat was held in the parish hall this past weekend on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. During this time, we reflected upon one of two questions I have tossed about for some time now. They are: "Why do we exist?" And, "What difference would it make if we did not exist?" As the Spirit led, we addressed only question number one. We will address the second at our next Vestry meeting. In addressing the first, we were directed to our source of truth, the Holy Bible, for guidance. And for further explanation, of an Episcopal bent, we looked at portions of the Catechism found in the Book of Common Prayer—our "other" source. We used the Great Commandment and Great Commission to reflect on why we as individuals exist, and why we as a Church do as well. We found, of course, that the answers to one really cover the other--no surprises there. From the Great Commandment, we found that we exist to love God, love ourselves, and out of those two are rightly able to love others. Our conclusion is that we are called to love. Out of that love we exist to worship. In worship, our calling involves, among many, a willingness to raise our voices in song and praise, and to push for the things of God outside our doors that reflect justice, compassion, and dignity for all. From there we realized we exist, out of that love, to serve others. We surmised that we are, as a result, called to grow in this Christian life and faith. In order to do that, as with any good relationships, we must talk. This led to yet another reason for our existence—prayer. Because we are called to make disciples (see the Great Commission), a key reason for Christian existence is, we noted, our calling to teach others, being first, and always, willing to learn. It was a wonderful day together.

Our overall conclusions as to why we exist as an individual and as a Parish were consolidated as follows:

1. To let God love us so we are able to love ourselves and thus love others;
2. To learn by engaging the Bible;
3. To worship and fellowship (Koinonia—community, communion, joint participation,

sharing and intimacy), meaning we gotta be willing to show up;

4. To talk to God thru prayer;
5. Out of our love for God we naturally want to give—time, talents, and yes, money;
6. To be willing to be discipled (taught as the Great Commission calls us "to make disciples") and a willingness then to disciple (teach) others;
7. And to take all of that and focus, as we are growing as individuals and a parish spiritually, and reach out to the world about us.

Therefore, the group recognized three areas for particular focus, among the many Vestry responsibilities already present. Our vision focus for 2018 will involve giving much support widely to Christian Formation (where we learn and teach others—noting a dearth of this option for our youth especially); Fellowship (since the only way to develop that Koinonia/fellowship is to be together); and lastly to focus ever greatly on our work outside by helping Outreach. The last being the result of healthy growth and spiritual development. We exist then to go out, where the Church worship, Christian Formation and fellowship empower us with wisdom and knowledge to lead and assist others.

Next Vestry, March 6<sup>th</sup>, we ask the question: "what if we did not exist—individually and as a Parish?" Would Swanton, Franklin County, Vermont, and the world notice, or be the worse for it? Heady stuff—but you see the point.

In Christ's love,

Father Rob

### Stations of the Cross

The church will be open on Fridays 5-7 pm or Mon-Fri 9-2 during Lent for those who wish to do the Stations of the Cross. The booklets will be in the church on the wooden step stool.

### **Upcoming Events**

*"The Path" Bible Study Every Sunday*  
11:15am in Chapel ALL WELCOME

Tues, Mar 6– 5:30 Vestry

Sat, Mar 10 – 11-3, Empty Bowls at 14<sup>th</sup> Star  
Brewery to benefit Martha's Kitchen

**Daylight Savings Time; spring clocks forward**

Sun, Mar 11– Mothering Sunday Cake

Sun, Mar 25 – PALM SUNDAY

Mon., Mar 26 – 5:30 pm Evensong at HTC

7 pm – Taize at Cathedral Church of St Paul

Tues, Mar 27 - 5:30 pm Evensong

Wed, Mar 28 - 5:30 pm Tenebrae

5:30 Open Door Dinner at Nativity

Thur, Mar 29 - 5:30 pm Seder & Maundy Thurs  
Liturgy

Fri, Mar 30 – 12 noon Community Cross Walk  
5:30 pm Stations and Reserved Sacrament Eucharist

Sat, Mar 31 – 7:30 Easter Vigil at Cathedral  
Church of St Paul, Burlington

Sun, Apr 1 - **EASTER**

### **Swanton Food Shelf**

Needs: Canned pasta, spaghetti, canned  
chicken/canned meats, tuna fish, soup.

Place items in treasure chest in the Narthex.  
Thank you.



### **Open Door Dinners**

5:30 pm Weds at Church of the Nativity: Mar 28  
April-Jun at Holy Trinity

### **Vestry Update: Feb 6th Meeting**

Vestry at a glance...

-welcome new members Don, Tammy,  
Wally and Frank

-2017 Parochial report submitted

-lots going on with buildings and grounds,  
getting quotes for some much needed  
repairs.

Thanks, Sarah Nielsen

The Hershey's logo, featuring the word "HERSHEY'S" in a white, serif font inside a dark red rectangular box.

### **Know Chocolate for Lent Sunday School Curriculum**

*Know Chocolate for Lent* by Anna L. Liechty and Phyllis Vos Wezeman uses the growing and manufacturing process of chocolate as a metaphor for the growth of faith and discipleship in the Christian life while guiding participants through Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Lent is an appropriate time for reflection and study so that believers comprehend the significance of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Don't you wish you could go to Sunday School every Sunday & eat chocolate!!**



### **EMPTY BOWLS**

Sat., Mar 10, 11-3 @ 14<sup>th</sup> Star Brewery  
To benefit Martha's Kitchen  
"Filling one bowl, feeds many Empty Bowls!"  
Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to raise both money and awareness in the fight to end hunger. For over 25 years this project has been rebuilding community while supporting establishments that serve the On the day of the Event, you stop by, purchase a ticket at the door, pick out a handmade ceramic bowl from local potters, and enjoy delicious soup made by local volunteers.

Tickets will be sold on the day of the event, at the door. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time by stopping by Martha's Kitchen (M-F 8-12:30, Sat & Sun 11-12:30) or call 802.343.5411.

The tickets are \$15.00 each and for that you will pick out your own bowl and enjoy a simple meal of soup, bread and dessert. When you leave you will take the bowl with you. All of the bowls are made and donated by local area potters and students at our local schools.

### **A Note from the Sr Warden**

I would like to thank everyone for doing their part in the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.

The men pitched in and did a remarkable job. The hall was beautifully decorated! The dinner was delicious. The laughter and conversation brought in such a warm festive feeling to this event.

But the best part was the fellowship shared between Holy Trinity and St. Luke's. I have heard so many positive comments by people who truly enjoyed themselves. I truly hope we will see more events like these in the future.

Again a big thank you to all who help - you were all amazingly awesome.

**Don Fournier**  
Senior Warden



### **Holy Week Services**

+ **Monday** and **Tuesday** (Mar 26 & 27) we will have Evensong at 5:30 PM.

+ **Wednesday** (Mar 28), we will gather at 5:30PM for the candlelight service of Tenebrae. This quiet and dramatic service symbolizes the apparent victory of darkness and death on Good Friday and the ultimate triumph of the Light of Life at Easter.

+ **Maundy Thursday** (Mar 29), we will hold our traditional parish Seder Meal, re-enacting Our Lord's Last Supper, and celebrate the Institution of Holy Communion. The Seder begins at 5:30 in the Parish Hall and moves into the church to the garden of Gethsemane.

+ **Good Friday** (Mar 30), our first service will be The Community Cross Walk which begins at Nativity Church at 12 noon processing to Holy Trinity and ending at Memorial Methodist. Then at 5:30 PM, here at Holy Trinity, we will have our Good Friday Liturgy retracing Jesus' steps on the way to Calvary as we pray the Stations of the Cross, hear the Passion Gospel, and receive Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

### **Wisdom Practice Circle**

1st Thursday, Mar 1, 7-9 pm

4th Monday, Mar 26, 5-7 pm

Bishop Booth Conf. Ctr

Explorations of Wisdom Practices

Sacred Chant

Centering Contemplative Prayer

Body-Movement Meditation

*Lectio Divina*

### **Rock Point Wisdom School**

The first **Rock Point Wisdom School** will be offered at the BBCC from **Sunday, March 11th through Wednesday, March 14th**. The retreat leader will be The Rev. Matthew Wright, who is a well-known and popular leader for Northeast Wisdom. Further details and registration information will be coming out in early January. This retreat will be likely to fill quickly, so watch for info in The Mountain.



### **Easter Flowers**

In the coming weeks, look for envelopes for Easter flowers. You can donate either in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings bestowed. Casey will need to receive all names by Palm Sunday to include in the Easter bulletin. Thank you.



**Rock Point Summer Camp**  
**Caring for Creation, Neighbor, Self &**  
**Having Fun**

**SCHEDULE**

Leaders in Training	16-17 yo	Jun 24-29
Day Camp I	5-10 yo	Jun 25-29
Sr Hi Camp	14-16 yo	Jul 1-6
Sr Hi Day Camp	14-16 yo	Jul 1-6
Jr Hi Camp	11-14 yo	Jul 8-13
Jr Hi Day Camp	11-14 yo	Jul 8-13
Intermediate Camp	10-12 yo	Jul 15-20
Intermed. Day Camp	10-12 yo	Jul 15-20
Elementary Camp	7-10 yo	Jul 22-27
Elemen. Day Camp	7-10 yo	Jul 22-27
Day Camp II	5-10 yo	Jul 30-Aug 3
Alumni, Family & Friends	All ages	Aug 5-9

Look for brochures in Parish Hall  
[www.rockpointvt.org/summer\\_camp](http://www.rockpointvt.org/summer_camp)  
[sosborn@dioceseofvermont.org](mailto:sosborn@dioceseofvermont.org)



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

**Office: [holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net](mailto:holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net)**  
**Website: [holytrinityswanton.org](http://holytrinityswanton.org)**

**Holy Trinity Staff:**

**The Rev. J. Robert Spainhour**  
**[holytrinityrector@myfairpoint.net](mailto: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](mailto:holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net)**

**Bookkeeper: Shelley Robtoy**  
**[holytrinitybk@myfairpoint.net](mailto:holytrinitybk@myfairpoint.net)**

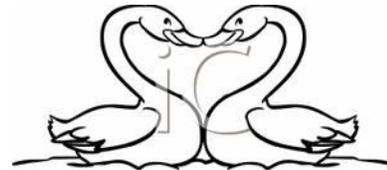
**Facilities Manager: George Plante**  
**868-7185**

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



***MARCH BIRTHDAYS***

- 6 Drew Wood
- 7 Suzy Kenyon, Amy Visconti
- 8 Barbara Hamm
- 9 Hugh Kenyon
- 14 Ayden Burnor
- 17 Henry Brian Collins
- 18 Helen Short
- 26 Donald Fournier
- 30 Sandy Hersey



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 13 Adam Fournier & Devon Traver



**2018 VT Maple Open House**  
**Sat & Sun, Mar 24 & 25**  
**Local sugar makers open their doors**  
**to visitors while they are boiling!**  
**[Vermontmaple.org](http://Vermontmaple.org) for more details**