



HOLY TRINITY NEWS

November 2020



Newsletter November 2020

Father Rob's Reflections

Dear Holy Trinity family,

For some reason Job has been on my mind lately. You know the one tested so much in the Old Testament narrative. It's an amazing record of a man so blessed and then put thru the most difficult of times. Friends who wanted him to turn on God met with his refusal. Family wanted him to flee, he did not. But though steadfast, he was not free from doubt as he complained to God. This in turn gave God a chance for a right snappy verbal comeback. You see Job just couldn't figure out why he lost everything. What was happening? What was the point? Rather than delving into the theological quagmire of God doing this to him, let's see this as more of what can happen with a life of roses when the thorns eventually prick our lives.

Of course, I think my pondering on Job of late is no accident. Indeed, are not we too in a time of loss or rose pricking, creating quite the wound? I would say yes. This pandemic is on our last nerve. Like Job we might be tempted to be angry, even, like in his case, at God. We might be looking for places to shift blame. Maybe it is the politician's fault? Maybe the Governor's? Maybe someone else? We might even displace that anger, like Job's friends, into the wrong direction. Some might wonder, wrongfully, did I/we bring this somehow on ourselves as Job's friends did to him? While quite natural to do so, it's not helpful to our healing. In fact, what Job learned was that with patient belief, with a steady hand of faith, he would survive this. He came back better, stronger, more blessed. I cannot imagine we have not all been harmed by this pandemic. But clearly, from the lives of Job, Paul, the disciples, and Jesus we can see that part of our success will be rooted in a patience that God can give us, to wait until the day breaks in on an otherwise gloomy night. We can call upon God to move away from blame shifting and bitterness. And one way to do that is to continue to be busy with God works while this is slowly shifting away—for it will shift away, this pandemic.

This pandemic has in it the seeds of some of the greatest opportunities to help people, since so many are hurting. It is a great time to ask Lord, in

this weird time of disconnection, how can I support the things and people that help make other's lives easier? I know we already do that, so maybe just with a little more intention. And as pledge season is upon us, think, even with not being in the church, can I still help the ministry of the church continue? Is there something God is calling me to on behalf of the Holy Trinity family? All the incredible outreach work we do, it makes a difference. Even in subtle things, since even our buildings were meant for outreach and, in safer times, will continue to be and used daily by some group or parish ministry. Is there more? For sure. How does it happen? Well, with our time and talents, remotely for now, and yes of course our financial tithes—our ministry for God and God's Church first, and ourselves as well.

Yes, this is a hard time--one Job might relate to. I will not downplay the harshness of this time at all, but perhaps, Job, the somewhat patient but certainly faithful man, who even though he questioned God at times was still found to be faithful, maybe with him in mind, we might remember that this God of ours will never leave us defenseless. And that God will not tarry forever in God's justice for those He loves. For each of us, my friends, as his baptized children, are his favorite, his beloved, his most precious. You are not alone. God's work will manifest in our lives as we pass thru this horrific time, and upon that you can be sure. And this can bring us peace. For we are told, Jesus reminded his followers repeatedly and God showed Job, to "Be not afraid, for I am with you always even to the end of the earth".

In Christ's love,

Fr. Rob+

*Look for a special announcement regarding
pledge ingathering Sun. Nov 22nd*



Vestry at a Glance
October

1. Junior Warden is working with George to get quotes for replacement of rectory roof.
2. Exploring the future interest and membership of the finance committee.
3. Outreach will conduct a varied approach for the Pies for Bonnie sale this year.
4. Fr. Rob is working on stewardship event for November 22nd.
5. Work continues to explore cleaning and next steps for Sheldon House.
6. Fellowship continues to work on supporting parish members with calls and support for special occasions as needed.
7. Vestry will work to keep next year's budget as close to the 2020 budget with minimal adjustments.
8. Fr. Rob and Wardens continue to work to prepare for Phase 4 Restart when documents are available to proceed.
9. Ended service with Indigenous People Prayer.



Novena Prayers for an Election

Tues Oct 27- Tues Nov 4

A Novena is an ancient tradition of nine days of prayer. Please join the Green Mt Online Abbey at 8 am & 8 pm daily or join Presiding Bishop Curry at 10 pm daily as we pray for the election and our leaders. This is a national movement from the Episcopal Church.

Join the Abbey using the link on the website:
diovermont.org/2020/10/17/online-prayer-with-bishop-shannon/

Join Bishop Curry using Zoom link:
<http://us01web.zoom.us/j/82804283313?pwd=cnFWNltCbmlRUGJLN0drclldNTGo0QT09>



Turn your clocks **back** Sat, Oct 31!!

November Events

Tue, Oct 27 – Tues, Nov 4 - Novena Prayers for an Election, 8 am & 8 pm Green Mt Online Abbey, 10 pm w/ Presiding Bishop Curry

Oct 25-Nov 20 – Coat Drive; brings coats, hats, mittens, boots to HTC bell tower

Sat, Oct 31 – Diocesan Convention ZOOM

Mon, Nov 9 – 5:30 Vestry on Zoom

Thur, Nov 26 - Thanksgiving

Sun, Nov 22 – Ingathering Sunday

Sun, Nov 29 – 1st Sun of Advent



Rotary Coat Drive

Oct 25 – Nov 20

drop-off box in the bell tower
open for drop-offs Mon-Fri 8am-1pm
gently used or new coats, hats, mittens, or boots
items will be distributed to area folks

Fellowship & Outreach Activities

Fellowship and Outreach have been working together to spread some cheer. Eight canvas bags filled with goodies have been distributed to folks who need a little lift whether because of surgery, a loss or just because. Speak to Mary Wood or Linda Wirts if you know of a concern. Communication has not been cancelled. Caring has not been cancelled.



There will not be a Thanksgiving dinner at Holy Trinity this year.

Pies for Bonnie - Month of November

Dear Holy Trinity Friends,

We will soon be in November. And as many of you know, November means...Pies for Bonnie Sale. As we approach the date, your outreach team realizes that with safety precautions needed this year our sale cannot progress as usual. So....Here is our twist.

This year, we are going to do a PAY IT FORWARD pie sale. This is how it will work. We are asking anyone who would like to participate to make a pie(s) , pick your favorite flavor, anytime during the month of November. After you make the pie, you can pass it on to someone in your safe bubble and ask that they either...1. Make a donation to the Swanton Food Shelf, Abenaki Food Shelf, or Tim's House. Please ask them to mail donations directly to organization of choice. Nonprofits' addresses are noted below. or 2. Make a pie and pass it on to another person in their bubble. People could then make as many pies as they like during the month of November.

Here is an example of how the two options would happen....

1. Mary makes an apple pie and gives one to Deanna and John. Deanna and John give a donation to Tim's House.
2. Shelley makes an apple pie and gives it to Kathy. Kathy in turn makes an apple pie and gives it to Carrie

The Outreach Team has also decided to give an additional \$200 to both of the food shelves for them to buy pies for families and \$200 for Tim's House to buy needed essentials.

This process allows anyone in the parish to participate in pie baking in honor of Bonnie and helps encourage giving during the Thanksgiving Season.

I will ask Kiley to make up some donation envelopes if people would like them to give along with the pie(s) they bake and pass on to others.

Please let me know about the pie(s) you bake or if you have questions. I do have several 9"aluminum pie pans and 9"boxes if you are in need of any, just let me know.

QUESTIONS: Call Mary: 524-5446 E-Mail: golfwoodmd@comcast.net

Happy Pie Baking,
Mary Wood and HTC Outreach Team

Addresses for donations:

Swanton Comm. Food Shelf	Abenaki Food Shelf
65 Canada Street	100 Grand Ave
Swanton, VT 05488	Swanton, VT 05488

Tim's House
20 Kingman St.
St. Albans, VT 05478

Meet Kiley Boutah

Kiley has been our Administrative Asst since March but the church building closed down 2 weeks after she started at Holy Trinity. How many of us have actually met Kiley? Our intrepid reporter interviewed Kiley so that we can all learn a little about her. Kiley, a native Vermonter, has lived in Swanton for 20 years. She has a 21 yr old daughter & an 8 yr old son. She worked at Swanton Lumber for 20 years so maybe some folks know her from there. Some day we will be allowed into our building and can meet Kiley face to face. Till then, give her a call if you feel so moved.

For an Election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen



Advent Wreaths 2020

We will not be getting together at coffee hour on Sun, Nov 29 to make advent wreaths as we traditionally do on the first Sunday of Advent. James MacDonald will have a grab & go table in front of the church (or maybe in the bell tower).

He will hand out the metal frames and the candles. You will have to find greens, pinecones, and ribbons on your own. Day to be determined as the time gets nearer. Call Kiley and tell her you plan to stop by so that James will have enough supplies ready.

Dave's Ice Cream Social

I am blown away by this. [Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Swanton, VT](#) has made a \$1000 donation to the [Franklin County Area Cancer Network](#), and will be closing out Singathon 2020 with the final song request of the year at the end of our fundraiser.

With all the in-person FCACN fundraiser events being cancelled this year, it is AMAZING to have such effort put forward. Please join me in sharing this great news!

Thank you so much,
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Swanton VT!!!



Your Holy Trinity Outreach at work.
Your giving helps make this possible.



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Fri. is ordinarily Fr. Rob's Sabbath

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6 John Farr
- 7 Eleanor Wirts
- 8 Madeline W. Martin
- 10 Marcalah Whalen
- 11 Les Stutzman
- 13 Ellen Trushaw
- 19 Heather Burnor
- Billie Lynn Spainhour Fredell
- 26 Eagan Murphy



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Les Stutzman & Michael Ellis



Just Born

Oct 17 Hawkeye Vercin
Baxter
Proud parents: Katy & Ryan Baxter
Proud grandparents: Marianne & Steve Marshall

Jane and the late Michael
Baxter