



HOLY TRINITY NEWS



July 2021

Father Rob's Reflections July 2021

Service times & overview of Parish Survey Results

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Well, the results are in. 48 family units or individuals responded. That's a healthy showing. Prior to the COVID pandemic, 72.0% attended 10 am services and 27.1% attended 8 am. The key points are that 62.5% preferred two services when asked their preference of one service or two. If there were two service choices given as the option, 87.5% chose 8 am and 10 am just as before the pandemic. 89.4% plan to worship in person, in building while 10.6 percent, with some comments adding to this percentage, said virtually. In returning to in person, in building Holy Eucharist at 70.2% was the highest "most critical" for return to inside worship. 53.2% said coffee hour. 40.4% said choir resuming. 42.6 % said 2 services were a critical issue for them. Sunday School for children and adults came in at 17% each. Nursery was 14.9%.

While I want to study the other preferences to make decisions for the fall, etc., the key focus area, given various factors, is service times right now. So, in order to allow staff and the congregation time to adjust, this Sunday, July 4th, we will continue with 9:30 am Zoom and 11 am in person. But, the following Sunday we will have a trial run of return to 8 am Rite I Eucharist (no music) and 10 am Rite II. Our plan is that the second service will include a virtual element on Zoom and that recording will be uploaded later to Facebook and perhaps YouTube. We need to continue our Zoom approach, given the results of our survey, but three services is not feasible. Then, on July 18th, we will have one service at 11 am with the Bishop, followed by a gathering to greet her. She requires 11 am for traveling purposes. The previous Thursday at 6:30 pm the Bishop will

meet with Vestry, as she normally does for visits but via Zoom. After the Sunday gathering, Auburn Watersong will lead us, the Vestry, that afternoon in a ministry reflection time from the past year. My vacation begins July 19th thru August 16th. My supply Clergy will have the 8 am and 10 am service schedule that we just tried out on July 11th, with Eagan Murphy, our new AV/TECH Facilitator, running the Zoom during the 10 am service. There will be a TV monitor up front, off to the side, for you to see who is on Zoom and for them to participate in the service. Yes, you'll be able to see and hear Dawn and others on Zoom, just like they were with us. (Disclaimer: we are working on this now and the additional week to get it set up and tested is one of the many reasons we will try out 8 and 10 schedules on July 11th not July 4th. Fingers crossed please.)

I hope this helps. For now, masks remain as a support to our under 12 youngsters, as a role model to them, and support to immuno-compromised and unvaccinated. But I will repeat, as I said last Sunday, if the school system in August decides that children may come, vaccinated or unvaccinated, to school without masks, then upon my return I will work quickly on turning masking over to personal choice. So, much is getting back to a new way of normal. The worldwide pandemic is not over no matter how well Vermont is doing, but we are getting here.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Rob+



JULY CALENDAR

Mon, July 12- Vestry Meeting 5:00, Upper Room

Thur, July 15- Bishop meet w/ Vestry on Zoom at 6:30

Sun, July 18- Bishop at HTC for the 11:00am service, w/ gathering afterward. Followed by a mutual ministry review w/ Auburn Watersong

Mon, July 19 - Outreach Meeting 4:00

July 19 thru August 16 – Fr Rob's Vacation



Vestry at a Glance for June, 2021

- *. Minutes approved with additions and discussion.
 - *. Sr Warden reported that the name plates have been installed in the Columbarium.
 - *. Jr Warden reported 4 different people are looking at the downstairs apartment at 40 Grand to rent.
 - *. Fr Rob Spainhour reported that Mary Jane Sheldon's picture has been framed and the plaque is in progress. The picture and plaque will be hung in the Parish Hall at a later date.
 - *. Treasurers report was approved. Further discussions with Steve Marshall regarding line item changes upon his return.
 - *. Fr Rob Spainhour will be on vacation mid July through 2nd week of August.
 - *. Finance committee is setting up date for Audit.
 - *. Outreach has set Aug 27 & 28 as Trash to Treasure Sale, if Parish Hall can be used. If not, the secondary date will be Sept 24 & 25. Proceeds will be divided between Home Base and Turning Point in honor of Jennifer Fuller, Deanna & John Edward's daughter. Please save items to go towards this outreach event.
 - *. Fellowship-Linda Wirts suggested a luncheon in her backyard for all the Telephone Tree Contact Team. With the help of the Vestry it is scheduled for June 27 after Church.
 - * The organ has been tuned.
 - *. WiFi and firewall should be installed this month along with a new camera.
- Sheri Moore

Updates From Your HTC Outreach Team

Trash to Treasure Sale will be Friday, August 27th and Saturday August 28th - set up will be Thursday August 25th at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall in the church. Items for sale can be brought between 9 am and 2 pm August 23rd, 24th, 25th. A food table will be available with each item wrapped. Don Fournier and John Farr will head the event. No large appliances such as washing machines, dryers, old television sets. Steve Trushaw and John Farr to be tellers. Other items discussed Holy Trinity Scholarship, Mentoring Program, Boy Scout Volunteer Options.

Future meeting dates: 3rd Mon of the month

Open Door Dinner scheduled for Fri, Oct 7



Holy Trinity Church Cooking Camp In A Bag

Do you know of a young cook grades K-3 who would love to get a cookbook, some cooking utensils and some cooking and art activities to do at home with an older sibling or parent?

This year, Holy Trinity will be doing Cooking Camp In A Bag for interesting children. Our theme for this year is going to be "The Wonder of Water". Activities will include stories and activities that center around water stories from the Bible such as Noah's Ark, Fishers of Men and the Baptism of Jesus.

Children will decorate their own pot holder, apron and design a pouch to store some of their own favorite recipes. We have materials for 20 campers.

Bags will be organized the week of July 12 and will be ready for pick up on the morning of July 19.

If you are interested in picking up a bag for a child in your family, please contact Mary Wood at 524-5446 or email me at golfwoodmd@comcast.net.

As we find ways to ensure safety of all children during the recovery from the pandemic, we look forward to getting back to an in person cooking camp next year!!

Blessings from all the cooking camp leaders

Oops! We missed a graduate in June's Newsletter 8th Grade - Logan Burnor

John 21:6 *Jesus said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.*

This story always fascinates me. We assume that casting the net on the right side is a change, because Jesus specifically tells them to do it that way. Have they been fishing wrong all along? Does Jesus make the fish appear, or have fish simply been swimming on the other side the entire time, waiting to be caught? Ultimately, the answer doesn't matter. What's important is that when the disciples do what Jesus says, their empty nets fill to overflowing.

I wonder how often we cast our proverbial nets in the wrong place over and over. What would it be like if we could listen carefully for the voice of Jesus to see if he might offer direction?

Many churches are in slow, steady decline, and we try to do the same things over and over again. Are we missing an opportunity to cast our proverbial nets in a new place? I hope we can hear Jesus when he calls to us.

Moving Forward: Cast a discerning eye on the ministries of your congregation. Do any need an overhaul or fresh approach?

Forward Day by Day, April 9,

2021



Prayer for Independence Day

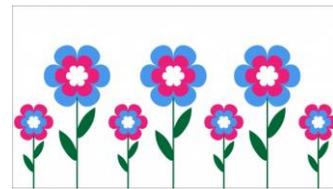
God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the peoples of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



Telephone Tree Thank you

The Vestry invited all Telephone Tree callers to lunch on Sunday June 27th following the church service. We gathered under the tree at Linda Wirts' home and had some delicious food celebrating the fine work our callers did over 15 months. Thank you tree callers and food bearers.

Mary Hartman & Linda Wirts



Thank you, friends, for all your phone calls, cards, flowers, and especially the gathering in Linda's lovely back yard. A special thank you to Linda and Natalie for "cooking up" the plan to celebrate my birthday.

Mary Gladden

Members of the Vestry,
Thank you for your continuous generous support.

Hank Lambert
for the Swanton Beautification Committee

Fr. Rob,
On behalf of the Swanton Historical Society, I am pleased to acknowledge the recent generous donation of \$500 from the Holy Trinity Discretionary Fund. It is greatly appreciated and please be assured it will be put to good use. Thank you very much.

Don Lefebre
Secretary

Abbreviated examen for a day in a pandemic
Ignatian Examen is a way to prayerfully reflect on one's daily life, God's presence, and our aim for a Jesus centered life.

God of all strength and grace, we are grateful that we are no longer considered to be in a state of emergency in Vermont. In the coming days, help us to be mindful of children not old enough to be vaccinated, for the immunocompromised, for people still suffering from the impact of illness, and the mental health toll it has taken on so many. We pray to be generous and accepting of where people are in these uncharted waters. Let us rejoice together for life and breath and for our lives together in you, O Christ. Amen
For what am I grateful today?

In silent reflection ponder for a moment.

Where and how have I felt God's presence?

In silent reflection ponder for a moment.

In preparation for tomorrow, what spirit do you want to bring with you into the new day?

In silent reflection ponder for a moment.

God of all people, remind me that it is not I alone who has suffered in coronatide. Our world has been rocked by many crises. Through it all, we have learned so much, prayed so much, and by our sacrifice, loved others so much. As I continue to learn from where I have been, as I take stock of how far I have come, challenge me to also bring others along with me. Show me a way forward that walks in the knowledge of our intertwined futures. Remind me of the kinship of all people every day. Nourish my soul with your Spirit and open my eyes to your movement around me. Amen.

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@holytrinityswanton.org

Cell 843 343-6871 Rectory 868-6757

Fri. is ordinarily Fr. Rob's Sabbath

Kiley Boutah, Admin Asst

holytrinityepi@holytrinityswanton.org

Bookkeeper: Aimee Hawkins

holytrinitybk@holytrinityswanton.org

Facilities Manager: George Plante

868-7185

Sexton: James McDonald

802 582-5596



JULY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Hunter Cheney
- 5 Sarah Nielsen
- 6 Gladys Nokes
- 9 Skylar Spainhour
- 13 Frank Short
- 18 Shelley Robtoy
- 20 Katherine Winchester
- 27 Tara Webster
- 28 James McDonald
- 30 Randy LaFlam



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Amy & Rob Giroux
- 6 Carol & Harry Moulton
- 8 Barb & Steve Trushaw
- 14 Sarah & Eric Hadd
- 20 Mary & Sam Carleton



In New Life

May 31 Joyce L. Nielsen
Jon's mother

Jun 11 Elizabeth "Betty" Casavant
Martha's mother

**May they rest in peace
And rise in glory**