



# HOLY TRINITY NEWS



DECEMBER 2023

## **Happy New Year and Blessings for a Holy Advent**

In the three-year liturgical cycle weekly Scripture selections, each year features one of the four gospels. November 26 was the last Sunday of year A highlighting Matthew's Gospel. Year B begins with Advent 1 Dec 3 and features the Gospel of Mark the first written of the gospels in our Bible and the shortest, therefore, selections from the Gospel of John occur more in year B than in year A and C. (BTW, year C highlights Luke).

Advent is a time of anticipation for celebrating the birth of Jesus the Christ. We prepare in multiple ways, planning events, cooking meals, baking cookies, singing carols, shopping for that special gift for a special person and we do it all with wonder, excitement, expectation, and joy. Every human birth may occasion wonder. In Jesus' birth the wonder is extrapolated across the screen of all creation and all history as a God-birth. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" and we in our turn also ponder what it means for God to be made incarnate as a human baby. Even those who don't believe find themselves happy to join in the giving and receiving, singing and celebrations with those who do. So, there is a lot to ponder here and for that reason, the four Sundays prior to Christmas are set aside for reflection, prayer, worship, and most important of all, preparing our hearts and spirits to experience the wonder of incarnation.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke have nativity stories. One tells us of the announcement to Mary of the holy birth, the other reveals the news to Joseph. One tells us of shepherds abiding in the fields by night and light and sound and astonishment enfolded them, and they made their way to Bethlehem to see the wonder of a newborn baby lying in a manger. The other tells of kings made aware of the birth who travel from afar to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In our pageants it is common to gather all the variables from Matthew and Luke into a story that provides a role for everyone. Are you Joseph leaning on the door of the barn watching over Mary and the baby? Are you Mary, tired from the birthing, resting securely under the watchful care of Joseph? Are you one of the animals looking at the young family, maybe questioning why they are in their barn? Can you see him asleep, or just opening his eyes to look at you?

After a pageant at my former parish (St. John's Hagerstown) a young girl, stopped before the manger holding the infant bowed her head and spent a few minutes in prayer. No one moved. The applause for all the animals, actors, and enactment of the nativity became silent as she invited us to the awe of the moment. May we be as prepared as we journey through Advent to Christmas.

Ann+

## **Transition Priest Report**

The Transition Process has moved into the next phase of its assignment, so it seems time for a review of their work to date.

They began by surveying the parish via multiple formats (transition progressive dinner, written surveys, My Prayer for Holy Trinity cards, Baptismal Ministry instruction session and personal conversations). They updated the website which will likely be the first introduction of Holy Trinity to potential rector candidates. At the team's request, the vestry authorized a package for the new rector including stipend (to be adjusted according to experience), health and dental insurance, other benefits as directed by Diocesan Convention Resolution, moving expenses, etc. The team devoted several months to answering Twelve Questions which guide potential candidates in understanding the unique strengths and challenges of Holy Trinity. These answers have been approved by the vestry and forwarded to the Canon for Transitions, Canon Linda Greutz, who will post them to the national church deployment website. While all this work has been underway, a subgroup has been working with Buildings and Grounds to get the rectory ready, replacing windows, assessing painting needs, replacing old and worn carpeting, etc.

Now the team turns its attention to the screening and interviewing process. After discussing and settling on key questions for candidates, they will conduct trial interviews with Fran and/or Ann. As names are received from Canon Linda, the team will screen them using the candidates' postings on the transition website as well as any materials available on the church where they currently serve. If that candidate seems to be a good fit, the team will conduct background interviews and a zoom interview. If all still looks good, the candidate will be brought to Swanton for an in-person visit and final interviews with the vestry. Once the vestry has decided to call a person as rector, the name will be submitted to Bishop Shannon who will give final approval.

Continue to keep the Transition Team and the transition process in your prayers. Read through the answers to the Twelve Questions. Offer the Transition Team your feedback and continued support so that the concerns of all the members of the parish are brought into the interview process. Members of the Transition Team are: Helen Short (chair), Kay Benedict, Shelley Robtoy, Madeline Martin, Linda Bruyette, Joey Cava, Eagan Murphy, Wallace Good, LouAnne Wood, Barb Trushaw, and Christie Bruyette.

- Fran

Parish Family,  
 Earlier this month an individual reached out to Holy Trinity with interest in St. John's Highgate. I spoke with him and they would like to purchase the building for Christian education and services. HTC is the caretaker of St. John's, however, ownership lies with the diocese. There have been many conversations over the years as to how St. John fits into the future of Holy Trinity's mission Given this request I invite all members to come to a parish wide conversation regarding St. John's Highgate on December 3rd following coffee hour.  
 Thank you, Sarah Nielsen

Calling All Youth

Come join other youth to make cookies for our Cookies With Santa Event  
 Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am-12 noon  
 Followed by a Pizza Lunch  
 Feel Free to Bring a Friend!  
 We will also credit Community Service Hours!!



Cookies With Santa  
 Holy Trinity Church  
 Sun, Dec 10, 1:00-3:00

Community Families are invited to gather at Holy Trinity Church to visit with Santa and join our Christmas Elves to decorate a special Santa Cookie

***Pies for Bonnie***

We are so happy to share that Pies For Bonnie reached an all time high of 122 pies this year. This means we raised a total of \$1,764. Our nonprofits of Franklin County Senior Center and Swanton Public Library will each receive a check for \$882 to support their programs. We want to thank everyone who ordered a pie(s) to support our work. Once again, this year, we were blessed with a great crew to make this happen. Please see the list of individuals noted below who were involved in ensuring that Bonnie is smiling down on us in Holy Trinity's Kitchen.

- |                 |               |                 |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Natalie Good    | Linda Wirts   | Mary Hartman    |
| Linda Bruyette  | Betty Finelli | Lise MacDonald  |
| Sheri Moore     | Adam Fournier | Shelley Robtoy  |
| Judy Cheney     | Helen Short   | Meghan Fournier |
| Marie Spear     | Laura Simon   | Deanna Edwards  |
| Martha Casavant | Kathy Giroux  | Carol Nokes     |
| Carrie Giroux   | Judy Ayer     | Kiley Boutah    |
| David Wood      | George Plante | Mary Wood       |

Greening of the Church  
 Sun, Dec 17 following coffee hour

Variety of jobs for everyone  
 Tree, window boughs, candles for pews,  
 Garland for rood beam, creche  
 Many hands make light work!



Heat For Homes  
 2023

**TIME TO HEAT IT UP!**

The Holy Trinity Family and Swanton Community is invited to help heat it up for winter. You are invited to take part in a community wide initiative to provide support for people who may need additional assistance for heating their homes during the upcoming winter season. Stop by the Holy Trinity Church anytime between December 1<sup>st</sup>. and Dec 20<sup>th</sup> and take a Stocking Bag off our outdoor tree. Inside the bag will be information for you to provide your donation to our project. Place your donation in the envelope and drop in in the mailbox on the outside of the church. Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity Church. Donations will be forwarded to CVOEO for use in Franklin County.



Ecumenical Christmas Caroling  
 All Ages Welcomed!

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. 2:45-5:00  
 Beginning at Church of Nativity Parking Lot  
 Transportation Provided or Drive Your Own Car  
 Ending at Holy Trinity Church with Cookies, Coffee or Hot Cocoa

Grab your coat & get your hat & mittens & join your ecumenical community in an afternoon of caroling and fun. There will be something for everyone to do! If you are ready to join the caroling group, meet at the Nativity School parking lot. The Ploof Blue Bus and the Favreau Christmas Wagon will provide transportation. Santa will join us for the ride as we sing our way around Swanton. If you are not able to join the caroling and would still like to attend the reception at Holy Trinity, please join us to help with refreshments. Our caroling afternoon will finish up at Holy Trinity Church for cookies, coffee & hot chocolate. All churches are providing cookies for the reception. If you would like to bring a dozen of your favorite cookies that would be wonderful! We will need a few people to help with setting up the refreshments and making coffee and Hot cocoa. If you would like to do this, please let Mary Wood know.

## Calendar

December 3 -1<sup>st</sup> Sun of Advent. 9:15 Pastoral Care Mtg  
Coffee Hour Parish Discussion as to St. John's  
December 4 – 9 am Outreach meeting  
December 9 – 12-2 pm, Youth Cookie Baking & Pizza  
Dec 10 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of Advent: St. Nick & St. Lucy  
11:20 - Buildings & Grounds Meeting  
Dec 10 -1-3 pm Cookies with Santa  
Dec 11 – 5:30 Vestry meeting  
Dec 17- 3rd Sun of Advent Greening of the Church  
2:45-5 pm Community Christmas Carols  
December 24 – 10 am 4<sup>th</sup> Sun of Advent  
4 pm Paper Bag Pageant  
9 pm Christmas Eve Service & Reception  
Dec 25 – Office closed  
December 31 - Lessons and Carols and Eucharist  
January 7 – Service Scholarship Sunday



### Flowers & Greens for Christmas

There will be envelopes on the sideboard in the Narthex for flowers & greens for Christmas. If you wish to give a donation in memory or in thanksgiving, please fill out an envelope and put it in the collection plate. Kiley will need them by Dec. 18.

### Bishop Shannon's Photo

There is a photo of Bishop Shannon at the time of her consecration hanging in the Narthex. Thank you to Ann and Fran for contributing to the framing and hanging of the picture.

### The Art Wall

Thank you to Erica Greenia for her beautiful photographs. It was wonderful to see the variety of her photos and to have Bellamy included! And congratulations on the first sale of your art. Welcome to Kay Benedict who has a display of unique quilting on the art wall for the months of December and January. As you observe Kay's quilting on the art wall, please notice in particular the written material next to each art piece.

Greetings everyone,

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your prayers and support through a difficult time. Thank you for the cards, gifts and the food. I am better and can do all that I used to do. Praise Jesus! God bless you all.

Love in Christ,  
Jeff Williams

## Food Safety Request

With a variety of people planning and using the kitchen, it would be helpful if people could label food to prevent using food that is outdated or reserved for special projects. Kiley has made some informative labels that are located on the shelf in the kitchen. If you add something to the refrigerator or the freezer, would you kindly attach one of the labels to the food item. Also, if you have food that you provided for coffee hour one week and are willing to share it the next week would you make note on that item. This will allow for more room in the refrigerator and freezer as we plan for future events.

## THANKSGIVING

Such a delightful Thanksgiving celebration at church. The food contributions were delicious. Everybody had some favorite that was there to eat and many new surprises. Seems like the stuffing was a winner. Preparation was fun and the cleanup crew hit hard! We shared Thanksgiving with our neighbors from Milton, Burlington, Cambridge, Colchester, St. Albans Town, St. Albans, and Swanton. Blessings to everyone who shared in the feast of Thanksgiving.

## DOING THE DISHES

It is an extraordinary gift to do the dishes and to have them done. The dish doers, on festive occasions, when there is much to be done are just the best and the dish doers who help the coffee hour persons or person is remembered with a thankful heart. Yes!

## THANK YOU

For preparers and bringers of food : Sharing your bounty with so many of us, is truly a heartwarming memory we all will recall for years to come. The elegant table settings topped everything off along with the perfectly prepared turkey and side dishes brought in. Thank you for your fine example of caring for others.

Charlotte Pedersen

*My many thank yous for all the acts of kindness that have helped and continue to help me through some most difficult time of my lifetime .You are truly my Church Family and I appreciate every one of you so much.  
Love to all, Mary Gladden*



## Linda B's Corner

Do you believe in Angels?

Open your eyes to possibilities all around you, and see how God special messengers are at work in your life. When God sends an angel celebrates angels of all shapes and sizes and forms. Whether ethereal winged beings or everyday heroes in blue jeans. These personal tales of heavenly intervention will lift your spirit, soothe your soul, and touch your heart.

Joy Christmas Star

Which night star is your window light?  
On which rainbow do you slide?  
Which soft cloud is your playground?  
And in which mortal helper do you hide. Amen



### **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

**38 Grand Ave, Swanton, VT 05488**

**Office 868-7185**

**Website: [holytrinityswanton.org](http://holytrinityswanton.org)**

**The Rev Ann Boyd 301-471-1861**

**[boyda@hood.edu](mailto:boyda@hood.edu)**

**[aboymd@holytrinityswanton.org](mailto:aboymd@holytrinityswanton.org)**

**The Rev Fran Stanford 240-285-7097**

**[vfstanford@comcast.net](mailto:vfstanford@comcast.net)**

**[fstanford@holytrinityswanton.org](mailto:fstanford@holytrinityswanton.org)**

**Admin Asst: Kiley Boutah,**

**[office@holytrinityswanton.org](mailto:office@holytrinityswanton.org)**

**Sr Warden: Sarah Nielsen**

**[srwarden@holytrinityswanton.org](mailto:srwarden@holytrinityswanton.org)**

**Bookkeeper: Lisa Way**

**[bookkeeper@holytrinityswanton.org](mailto:bookkeeper@holytrinityswanton.org)**

**Facilities Manager: George Plante**

**868-7185**

**Sexton: James McDonald**

**802 582-5596**

**Cleaning Services: Darlene Fournier**

**AV/Tech: Lincoln Buczkowski**



## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

<b>3</b>	<b>Tyler Robtoy</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Harry Moulton</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Zachary Ries</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Cody Shand</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Marguerite LaFlam</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Sarah LaFlam</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Beverly Montiel</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Lynda Bruyette</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Amy Giroux</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Ryan LaFlam</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Sandi Kenyon</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Eamon Murphy</b>



## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

<b>11</b>	<b>Sheri &amp; Charlie Moore</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Sandi &amp; Chuck Kenyon</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Kay &amp; Chaunce Benedict</b>



*In New Life*

Nov 9                      Rebecca Badger Blow  
Heather Hubbard's mother

*May she rest in peace*

*And rise in glory*