



HOLY TRINITY NEWS



JULY 2023

Reflections of Priest-in-charge

Being present as you beloved of God share your gifts with one another and the wider community is a blessing. The Holy Trinity parish feels a lot like family to me. At my grandson's wedding and reception, I was reminded of how eclectic our family is and how diverse my grandson's friends are. Regardless of our different opinions, that one day, we celebrated unity inspired by love. That got me thinking about how communities of faith stay together despite our differences and why.

In seminary, the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston had a profound influence on my formation. He taught me that our life journey is an adventure in faith. Conflict and disagreement are to be expected because we are not perfect nor are we little clones in the hands of a benevolent God. We do and say things that may hurt others and, often, are entirely unaware of the harm. Most people do not confront easily and internalize the disagreement or sense of being other – that is – not fully accepted. Bishop Charleston published Good News: A Congregational Resource for Reconciliation in 2003. It is organized in three sections: justice, compassion, and reconciliation. During the month of July, I will use this resource to develop a series of teaching sermons, hoping to help each of us accept our differences, even as we celebrate being a faith community.

If you read the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the letters of Paul, the first disciples did not understand everything Jesus taught, nor did they agree on what was the right thing to do. Jesus often corrected or chastised them for their "lack of faith". The first disciples did not always get it "right." Our scriptures do not dictate an absolute set of truths delivered to us from God "on high" but reveal a sacred memory of how real people struggled to hear what Jesus said and put it into practice. Peter and Paul disagreed so strongly that Paul publicly challenged Peter's ability to get it "right" and that conflict was settled by compromise, but it was only the beginning of church controversies. Over time separation of groups over disagreements has splintered the Christian church into thousands of "denominations". Often Scripture is used to support each side of the argument. We can think of many examples, the most recent example is the Baptist Convention refusal to accept women in formal ministry roles. Thus, we need not fret if we disagree about social, political, environmental policies, worship design, choice of hymns, length of worship service, priorities in outreach or stewardship of our finances. Jesus did not insist that his friends (disciples) be "right" but he did insist they were to love one another. Love is not about being right: it is

about being in relationship. The priority of the Gospel is love. Jesus called us to love God and to love one another. Accepting that we (each and every one of us) is the beloved of God will help us deal with difference, conflict, hurt, grief, as well as joys, beautiful relationships and wonderful community.

Love will teach us to deal compassionately with ourselves and one another. It will reduce our fear and heal our wounds, empower us to forgive and lead us to reconciliation. "The Jesus kingdom is a community without borders. It is not limited to any one culture or society. It has no theological border guards. Every person is able to obtain citizenship. Faith is the passport. Love is only pledge of allegiance." (The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, Good News, p 27). If we practice accepting God's love and sharing it as we work through this time of transition, this parish will be whole, healthy and ready to pursue a new chapter in mission and ministry.

Ann+

SIZE MATTERS

Church size matters, not because bigger is better but because different size churches work in different ways. Although there are many ways to define church size in relationship to how churches functions, one I have found meaningful separates churches into Family Chapels, Pastoral Churches, Program Churches and Resource Churches. While there is significant overlap: a Family Chapel has about 25-50 members, a Pastoral Church has 50- 150, Program Churches have between 150 and 300, with Resource Churches numbering more than 300.

Family Chapels tend to have one or two strong families. Most of the work of the church is done by members of those families and their friends. To "join" such a church, people must make some connection with those families. The pastor of Family Chapel is seen as "on-call"; that is, available when needed to perform the "God-stuff" like weddings, baptisms, Sunday services and funerals. To be effective, the pastor must connect with the key family/families.

A Pastoral Church revolves around a central pastor. That person provides leadership, aids visioning, and engages in active teaching around issues of faith as well as performing sacramental and pastoral ministries such as celebrating Eucharist, (cont. p. 2)

Baptism, Weddings, Funerals and making pastoral visitations. Lay leaders tend to form pseudo-families (which sometimes are actual families) where people work together to ensure certain functions such as outreach, Christian Education, Fellowship, etc. happen in an effective way.

Program and Resource Churches have multiple paid clergy and staff. The chief clergy person is likely to be more of an administrator than a pastor. Connections between the laity and the clergy often take place through channels.

For much of its history, Holy Trinity Church has been a Family Chapel with some Pastoral tendencies from time to time. Since the Perry bequest, HTC has moved more firmly into that Pastoral model. Your strong history of mutual ministry, lay ministry or baptismal ministry comes from the Family Chapel model. It can strengthen the Pastoral model if family leaders actively include newcomers as full members within smaller ministry groups. Ideally, the person you call as your next rector will have the skills needed for a Pastoral Church, such as ability to form connections with the members, willingness to share ministry, and openness to lay leadership. Sound administrative leadership skills will be valuable but, in my opinion, the ideal fit for HTC will be a pastor, not an administrator.

Fran+

Beach Day at Marshalls

The parish has been invited to a beach day at the Marshall's at 130 Maquam Shore Rd on Saturday, July 15th at 2pm-sunset. Please bring your own picnic and a chair to sit by the fire pit. Beach towels and water shoes are recommended. Rain date: Sunday, July 16th.

Fellowship

The parish wall space, sometimes referred to as the art wall, will have the water color paintings of Marianne Marshall on display the month of July. On Sunday, July 16th the Marshalls will make a presentation of Mariannes's work during coffee hour after church.

St. John's Church in Highgate requires some repair work done on it before we can continue to have services in it. Therefore, the Fourth of July service, Red, White, and Blue will be held at Holy Trinity on Sunday, July 2nd. We will be celebrating with a large cake both for the 4th as well as a farewell to Marcy who will be leaving from her organist position.

Transition Team Update

On June 11th the Transition Team met and reviewed what information needs to be updated and given to Sandi Kenyon and Eadoin Murphy by June 30th for our website updates. We also discussed furnishing our Rectory for use during candidates visits rather than using a motel or hotel. The group then delved into the task of reviewing the information gathered during the Progressive Dinner and from the returned surveys. This currently is an ongoing process as surveys continue to come in and HTC members are sharing thoughts with some Transition Team members. Designated groups will be meeting to complete tasks over the next few weeks. The next meeting of the entire Transition Team will be on July 23rd. One of the items to be explored is Mutual Ministry which our parish had experienced many years ago.

Please take advantage of the list of Transition Team members in this newsletter and our contact information. We welcome your input as we proceed towards the task of writing our Parish Profile. This document will go to Priests seeking parishes. Candidates will use our website, Facebook page, and profile to determine if they want to apply to become our new Rector.

Helen Short

The Transition Team members are available to talk with folks about their dreams and concerns.

Member	Email	Phone
Evan Anderson	swede50@fairpoint.net	802-734-5553
Kay Benedict	kayben1@yahoo.com	802-782-5708
Linda Bruyette	50 Decker Rd, Swanton	802-868-7566
Christie Bruyette	crazeesox@gmail.com	802-868-3490
Joseph Cava	JoeHCava@gmail.com	802-528-9489
Wally Good	xcd downhill@gmail.com	802-370-4407
Madeline Martin	MWM5961@gmail.com	802-923-6422
Eagan Murphy	murphinator26@gmail.com	802-582-1346
Shelley Robtoy	ssrobttoy@gmail.com	802-393-1515
Helen Short*	hshortvt49@gmail.com	802-752-5497
Fran Stanford**	vfstanford@comcast.net	240-285-7097
Barb Trushaw	barbtrushaw@yahoo.com	802-309-4429
LouAnne Wood	wood.bsn@gmail.com	802-734-0449

*Chair

**Advisor



Holy Trinity gathered to celebrate our graduates on Sunday, June 18th with special blessings and ice cream sundaes. Those that we honored are noted below.

We were also excited to make a special recognition to honor Mary Hartman who retired this year from Missisquoi Valley Union High School after 42 years of teaching the youth of our community.

Please continue to keep all these individuals in your prayers as they begin a new journey in their lives.

- Eadoin Murphy, College- UVM BS in Data Science
- Hunter Baker, College- Fairmont State University
- Connor Nielsen, 12th Grade- MVU
- Zach Ries, 12th Grade- BFA St. Albans
- Mason Baker, 12th Grade- East Fairmont High
- Veyda Kenyon, 12th Grade- BFA St. Albans
- Sydney Trutor, 12th Grade- BFA St. Albans
- Bella Cava, 12th Grade
- Ryan Laflam, 8th Grade- Fairfax
- Adam Longe, 8th Grade- Georgia



Your Outreach Team has decided to take on a new initiative and want to invite the greater parish to join us in promoting this project for Spectrum Youth and Family in Franklin County. Spectrum's St. Albans Drop-In Center is a safe place for young people ages 14-24 to eat a meal, use a computer or phone, do laundry, get clothing, take a shower, and get other basic needs met. Drop-In is a safe space and we welcome all LGBTQIA+ youth ages 14 – 24.

Hours: Monday-Friday from 10:00 am-6:00 pm.
Spectrum has a special meal program called "Meal Train" where groups or individuals sign up every day to provide a meal for 12-15 youth. Holy Trinity has signed up to provide a meal every fourth Monday of each month. We thought it would be great to get teams of people from our church together to help support this initiative. Check out this link for more information. Below are the list of dates for the rest of the year. If you would like to volunteer to work as a team to provide a meal, or have questions about the process, please let Helen or Mary know.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/m6qowl>

- July 24
- August 28
- September 25
- October 23
- November 27

Transition Team Prayer Warriors

II. For the choice of fit persons for the ministry
O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP, p. 256)

Vestry at a glance

June 12th, 2023

- *Marcy Greenfield, organist, retiring on July 2nd.
- *Upstairs apartment renovation complete, lease signed with new tenant.
- *Marianne Marshall's artwork will be displayed on the art wall in parish hall.
- *Waiting on grant status for St. John's roof repair.

Dear Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
What a difference your gift makes! Thank you for your contribution to Our Little Roses Foreign Mission Society Inc to support the vital work of Our Little Roses Ministries in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Our Little Roses Ministries is dedicated to protecting, caring for, educating, and empowering abused, abandoned, and neglected girls of Honduras. We do this in a safe, compassionate, enriching and spiritual environment. Our primary goal is to help each girl break the cycle of poverty and oppression from which she comes by striving to inspire the girls to transform their lives to become positive and contributing members of their community and their country. Your gift brings love, joy, and hope to girls who once only knew pain, hunger and fear. Thank you for making a difference in their lives.

Sincerely yours,
Mayra Hendrix, Sponsorship & Development Coordinator
Thank you for sponsoring Brigit!

Deconsecration St. Luke's, Alburgh

Wednesday July 26, 1:00 pm.

Bishop Shannon, presiding

St. Luke's, once a part of a cluster with Holy Trinity, was most recently in a joint ministry with two parishes in Quebec, St. George, Clarenceville and St. Thomas, Noyan

Music at Grace, Sheldon

- Friday, July 28: Heliand returns!
- Friday, August 3: Champlain Consort
- Friday, Sept 1: Jocelyn Pettit and Ellen Gira
- Friday, September 15: Frevo!
- Friday, October 6: Nobby Reed

Calendar

Sun 7/2- Red, white, & blue service at Holy Trinity
Tues 7/4- Office Closed
Sat 7/8- Faith, Food, & Family, 10-12 Parish Hall
Mon 7/10- Vestry meeting, 5:30pm
Thurs 7/13- Building & Grounds meeting, 4:00pm
Wed, 7/26 Deconsecration of St Luke's Alburg
- Morning Prayer Tues- Sat @ 8:00AM in the Chapel.

Pilgrimage in the Holy Land Deadline extended to August 15

From November 25 to December 5, join Bishop Shannon for a **pilgrimage to the Holy Land** led by the Rev. Kim Hardy of St. James, Essex Junction and the Rev. Dr. Fred Moser of Trinity, Shelburne.

Together with Hardy, Moser, and local guides Canon Iyad Qumri and Rami Qumri, pilgrims will visit the **Dome of the Rock, the Old City,** Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, and many other biblical sites. To reserve a spot, email revkimhardy@gmail.com.



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

38 Grand Ave, Swanton, VT 05488

Office 868-7185

Website: holytrinityswanton.org

The Rev Ann Boyd 301-471-1862

boyda@hood.edu

aboyn@holytrinityswanton.org

The Rev Fran Stanford 240-285-7097

vfstanford@comcast.net

fstanford@holytrinityswanton.org

Admin Asst: Kiley Boutah,

office@holytrinityswanton.org

Sr Warden: Sarah Nielsen

srwarden@holytrinityswanton.org

Bookkeeper: Lisa Way

bookkeeper@holytrinityswanton.org

Facilities Manager: George Plante

868-7185

Sexton: James McDonald

802 582-5596

Cleaning Services: Darlene Fournier

AV/Tech: Lincoln Buczkowski



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Hunter Cheney**
- 5 Sarah Nielsen**
- 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

June 5

Earl Taylor

June 22

Genevieve Rowell

Helen Short's mother

May they rest in peace

and rise in glory