



HOLY TRINITY NEWS



NOVEMBER 2023

Transition Priest Report

As the church year draws to an end, the Transition Process also draws to the end of the preparation phase of its work. We have surveyed and listened, discussed and pondered, reviewed Holy Trinity's history, and updated the website, all part of preparing the Team to answer Twelve Questions designed to help priests looking for new positions decide if Holy Trinity might be where God is calling them. The questions ask what we are proud of, how we have faced conflict, what type of liturgies we use, how we involve new people in the life of the parish, how we are involved in the larger community and four two-word phrases for the sort of person we seek to be Holy Trinity's next rector. The final answers will be presented to the vestry and then passed on to Canon Linda Grentz. Although Canon Linda presented our opening to the other transition officers of the diocese of Province 1 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Western Massachusetts, and Vermont), once the on-line profile with the Twelve Questions has posted we can begin receiving names.

While we wait for the "right" person, the Transition Team will turn its attention to the process of evaluating potential candidates. Initial evaluations will involve reading applications, checking references, conducting virtual visits through the clergy person's church's current website and zoom interviews, etc. We believe we know what Holy Trinity seeks and will design questions to discover if the candidate fits that description. When we think we have a likely prospect, that individual and spouse will be brought to Holy Trinity for several days so that candidate and vestry can explore whether there is a good fit. In the meantime, we are fixing up the rectory so it will be ready for Holy Trinity's next rector.

One thing to keep in mind is that there are a lot more parishes looking for priests than priests looking for parishes. Your prayers for the Transition Team, the Vestry and potential candidates will help ensure that the one right person finds us and we find that person. Fran+

Reflections from the Priest in Charge

There is a hymn in an approved hymnal (Gather #741) titled All Are Welcome. The first verse is: "Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place." During the first months of Sunday School the children have been studying the saints. We are invited to hear about the saints in

the stained-glass window of our church and learn from our children about the saints they have studied when we gather for the **All Saints pot-luck dinner on November 1.**

Saints are interesting characters because they represent some value, virtue, or character trait that we find reflective of Jesus' life, and which too often we ourselves lack. When the early forming church was crafting and word-smithing creeds of faith, and doctrines for Christian "identity" there were many points of conflict, disagreement, argument, dispute, and we have the legacy of the debate victors. Generations later we may question how useful doctrine is to being Church and carrying forward the mission to proclaim the love of Christ to the world. The saints are normal everyday men and women who lived imperfect but faithful lives. You will find a fascinating collection in HOLY WOMEN HOLY MEN. Some of my favorites are: Robert McDonald, priest, missionary and bible translator for First Nations peoples of Canada, Julia Chester Emery who founded the Women's Auxiliary, and traveled the world in encouraging women to rise up and take their place in mutual ministry. Julia also created the United Thank Offering. Frederick Douglass was born a slave, escaped, was inspired by spiritual music and grew into a powerful leader and advocate for abolition of slavery. We often admire their courage, dedication, clarity of vision and we are inspired by their lives of service.

In our hymnal (#293) we have a much-loved hymn inviting each of us to embrace the truth that saints not only lived ages ago and did heroic things but are also us living faithful lives. Verse 3: "They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still, the world is bright with the joyous saints who loved to do Jesus' will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too." Ann+

PS: One way of being faithful is to take our rightful place in the councils of the church. Fran and I and the Vestry invite you to plan to stay for a longer coffee hour conversation on **Nov. 5 and Nov. 12** to discuss parish finances. Living faithfully requires us to understand how this parish functions (earlier fall conversations were focused on the duties of the priest and the vestry and the commissions), how we serve Christ in the world was the subject of coffee hour discussions focused on baptismal ministry often called mutual ministry, and now we turn to the finances of the parish. Where does the money come from and how is it spent. There is no "right or wrong" answer but there needs to be clear understanding and solidarity among the parish so that the leadership on the vestry who has full judiciary responsibility for the parish craft a budget that reflects your values and sense of mission and ministry. We hope you will reserve time on these dates to engage in conversation & share in our mutual ministry. Ann+



All Saint's Day Pot Luck Dinner
 Wed., November 1st
 All Saint's Stories: 5:30-6:00
 Dinner Time: 6:00

This is a closure celebration for the work your Sunday School children have been working on during September and October. Please bring one of your Heavenly Dishes to share with our parish family. You might think of Heavenly Hash, Angel Cake, a dish with bacon to honor St. Anthony, a dish with fish to honor St. Neots, cheese and crackers to honor St. Isidore or a dessert with honey to honor St. Ambrose.

Did you know that we have a beautiful stained glass window that gives honor to many of the famous saints we hear about in the stories of the bible. However, there are many more saints that have been celebrated throughout the years. If you would like to research a saint and share about their life, we would love to have a few people dress up and tell their stories as part of our dinner entertainment. As part of our Sunday School Program, children are learning about specific saints that give additional meanings to their lives. They have learned that we can all be saints if we find a way to help others and we live a prayerful life.

Calendar

- October 28 -Halloween in the Park
- November 1- All Saints Pot Luck Dinner, 5:30
- November 5 – Pastoral Care Mtg, 9:15 am
Coffee hour discussion on parish finances
- November 6- Outreach Mtg, 9 AM
- Nov 12 - Coffee hour discussion on parish finances
- November 13 – Vestry, 5:30
- November 16 &17 Pies For Bonnie
- November 23 – Office closed
Thanksgiving Dinner at Holy Trinity 2 pm
- December 3 -1st Sun of Advent Ornament Making
- December 9 – 12-2 pm, Youth Cookie Baking Activity
Followed by pizza
- Dec 10 - 2nd Sun of Advent St. Nick & St. Lucy Day
- Dec 10 -Cookies Decorating & Cookies with Santa
- Dec 17- 3rd Sun of Advent Greening of the Church
- December 17 -Community Christmas Caroling
- December 24 -Paper Bag Pageant
- December 24 -Christmas Eve Service/ Reception
- December 31 - Lessons and Carols
- January 7 -HTC Scholarship Sunday

Transition Update

The Transition Team met on 10/8 and 10/22 to finalize the required 12 Questions about Holy Trinity's past, present, and future. The document will be given to the Vestry to be finalized. When the Vestry has completed their review, the document will go our consultant in Washington, DC.

The Team is preparing to review sample interview questions and how to conduct reference checks. We will meet again on 11/19.



Pies For Bonnie

November 16 and 17

Apple Crisp pies will be unbaked/frozen ready to bake

Pumpkin Pie Peanut Butter Pie
 Cream Cheese Pie

Pie Orders Need to be Made by Nov 8th
 All pies will be \$14

Pick-up Time Nov 17th between 12-2

Call Kiley at 802-868-7185

Shelley at 802-393-1515 or

ssrobtoy@gmail.com

Mary at 802-524-5446 or

golfwoodmd@comcast.net

Volunteers to peel apples, make crust, make fillings, prep boxes, pack up pies, and clean kitchen are all welcome.

Selected Non-Profit for this year's

Pies For Bonnie:

Franklin County Senior Center
 Swanton Library



Seeking someone to do Sunday School for the Seasons of Advent and Christmas

Thrivent Reflection 500 Can Challenge

First and foremost, I want to extend my deep appreciation to you for Thrivent for offering Holy Trinity Church the opportunity to have a Thrivent Action Team. Our Outreach Team for Holy Trinity Church has been working to address food stability in our community over the last 15 years. When Betsy Liley brought the challenge to us as a possible way to support our work, we were excited to present it to our parish. However, much more excitement was ahead of our work. This was a true validation of our paying it forward gift to our community.

The first week we passed out bags to the members of our small congregation and within five days, we had 100 items. As a church that opens our door to outside nonprofits to use as space for meetings and workshops many community members enter through our doors during the week. And guess what happened? As the Boy Scouts entered for their weekly meeting, they noticed the collection of cans and asked their leader if they could take up a collection to add to the pile. The next time our local Lions Club had a meeting, they grabbed some of our collection bags that explained our project and took them home to fill and return the next day.

This past weekend, a local quilters guild met for a quilting demonstration and were invited by one of our parish members to bring a can to donate. They would not have anything to do with it! Instead, they all brought bags filled with canned goods. We were also blessed to be joined by our friends for the Swanton Memorial Methodist Church. They ran a can collection at their Open Door Dinner to add to our collection. God's faith in action!! And last, our local school has offered to make labels for the cans with words such as, love, joy, peace, smith, and enjoy which we will add prior to our delivery.

Hope this shows you that with very little effort and planning, our community has helped us reach a wonderful goal to support a community that has so many families that experience food instability each day. To date, we have collected nearly 700 cans of food.

I would estimate that over 200 people in some small way had an opportunity to support our work. Guess you can say, His Light Shines in this Community! Now, we wait to see if we were one of the first teams to reach 500 cans and earn an additional \$500 to support the food pantry. Look forward to an update in a future newsletter.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thur, Nov 23, 2:00 pm

Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board & include what dish you would like to bring. Turkey, stuffing, gravy will be provided.

Fellowship

Our Vermont apples were the focus of a delicious Coffee Hour on October Fest - a full table of everything apple including cider. Thank you everyone for such a wonderful variety of treasures.

Welcome to your new home Joe, next door to the church, and climbing the stairs to heaven - thank you for your hospitality, each room full of praying church family as we blessed it, finishing with a flush of the toilet with abandon celebration. Thank you Fran for leading us room to room and finding the kitten snuggled under the covers in the guest room.



SPECTRUM
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Update On Outreach Work at Spectrum Youth Center

Spectrum Youth and Family Services is a nonprofit agency that serves youth ages 14-24. St Albans opened a Drop-In Center in March 2021 to serve the basic needs of the youth in Franklin County. We provide lunch and dinner M-F.

We aim to cook for approx 15 people give or take and any leftovers will be kept and served the next day. Any meal donations are greatly appreciated.

Your Outreach Team took on Spectrum's Meal Train earlier this year. To date we have provided dinner for the fourth Monday of the month for the last six months. We want to thank The Short Family, Good Family, Wood Family, Edwards Family, Lampman Family and Hadd Families for all signing up to deliver a meal.

Many members of Holy Trinity have inquired to see if they could take one of the Mondays. If you are interested in participating in the Meal Train, please speak to Helen Short or Mary Wood. We do have people signed up for November (Edwards), January (Hadds) and February (Lampman). The link for the Meal Train is attached to this update.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/m6qow/>

OPEN DOOR DINNERS
Swanton Memorial Methodist
5:30-6:30 Dine in only!!
Friday Nov 17



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.

Linda B's Corner

Wings of Light
Wings of light surround me,
And I am enlightened.
Wings of Love enfold me,
And I am comforted.
Angels guide my journey,
And I am directed.
Angels keep me safe from harm,
And I am protected.
Arms so strong lift me,
And I am encouraged.
Arms so soft hold me,
And I am at peace.
Angels grant me mercy,
And I am revealed.
Angels walk beside me,
And I am esteemed.
Songs of joy fill me,
And I am enchanted.
Songs of love envelop me,
And I am empowered.
Angels sing above me,
And I am adored.
Angels chant in glory,
And I am restored.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6 John Farr**
- 7 Eleanor Wirts**
- 8 Madeline Martin**
- 10 Marcalah Whalen**
- 13 Ellen Lamos**
- 14 Molly Hartman**
- 17 Emmitt Dittmar**
- 26 Jacob Greenia, Eagan Murphy**



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