



# HOLY TRINITY NEWS



APRIL 2024

## Being Church

Throughout my childhood, Sunday was the Church Day. We rose early, dressed carefully, went to Sunday School, then the Church Service, returned home for a few hours of “rest” and returned for the choir rehearsal or later, youth fellowship, and the evening service. That practice was repeated week by week, month by month and year by year. As a teenager, the youth program grew in importance along with the youth choir. In these two groups, I felt a sense of belonging and acceptance. But the older I got and the more I listened and watched, the more confused I became.

Maybe becoming a scientist was in my DNA because I was a careful observer. One Sunday when I was 3 my aunt took me to church and fearing I might make noise or distract an adult, she sat with me in the balcony. Apparently, the preacher was doing a lot of pointing, because she told my parents later that I pointed right back. This seemed to amuse her but acting right and doing right was my mother’s mantra and she was not amused. As a teenager, I saw and heard what people said about the preacher, the music, the length of the service, the way the church spent the money, often quite critical and rarely complementary. I wondered why they went to church if they found so much unpleasant. I wondered if they did it to “appear” Christian which was valued in the society of the time (these years would be 1944-1961 birth to High School graduation).

In a real sense the church was and is a social organization, a community of people who enjoy doing things together. Certain principles and values were then and still are clearly prioritized over others. It was important to avoid certain vices and always tell the truth. It was important to respect one’s elders (but not those of darker skin). It was vital to pledge to the church and have a good attendance record (there were attendance sign in sheets in the pews). These priorities aligned with social mores and curiously, making friends with people from church was much “better” in the views of my parents than anyone we might meet at school. Why, I wondered.

I have been consuming oxygen on planet Earth almost 80 years and I still wonder what it means to be church. Is it that we are social creatures that seek fellowship with “like-minded” persons? Is it that we need the sacramental nourishment to sustain hope in seasons of disappointment and despair? Is it that we can collectively do more to help our neighbors collaboratively than alone? Is it that we believe the teaching in John’s gospel that declares love is the Spirit that weaves our seemingly separate lives into a common fabric of community? To live is to dwell in and with others and they in us: God bids us dwell in love. For God is love, and we who abide in love abide in God and God in us. Is it that the self-gift of God came, died and rose to reconcile us to God giving us eternal hope through his resurrection?

Happy Easter!

Ann+

## April Newsletter

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been,  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

One of the lesser known of Easter hymns, **Now the green blade riseth**, Hymn 204, moves away from the triumphal trumpeting of so many Easter hymns. Yes, death and resurrection remain central; but this hymn leads into the mystical and the personal.

Christ’s death and resurrection is a once-for-all event, God breaking into historical time to rescue the whole of creation from condemnation and destruction. Even if there were no human, personal benefits, *dayenu*, that would have been enough. However, God did not stop with redeeming the natural order, God through Christ has and continues to redeem humanity as well. Why? Because *God so loved the world that God the Son stretched out arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that the whole world, the natural and human parts of that world, might come within the reach of God’s saving embrace.*

The final verse of this hymn drives home the personal, human element of God’s saving action taken upon that cross two-thousand years ago.

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Thy touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been,  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

Whether our souls have grown wintry and barren due to COVID, racism, personal loss, the political disjunction of our government, or the first-round failure of our search process to secure a new rector for Holy Trinity, God is ready to bring us to life again. Here lies the mystical truth of Easter – that God can take whatever has died within our lives and bring it to life again, not only for our personal benefit, but so that we might bear the grain of love that feeds the world’s needs. For that to happen, however, we must allow the living water of the love of God to fill every part of our being, as individuals and as church.

May it be as God has ordained. Amen.

Fran

## Transition Team Update

We're in an era of technology where much about us can be learned by searching Facebook, websites, and YouTube. When we began our search for a new Rector we updated our website to increase its appeal to candidates exploring new positions. Members have been posting our activities on Facebook and our web master puts them on the website. Our Facebook page includes a link to our weekly services which can be viewed on both YouTube and Facebook. Recently, while watching one of our services, I noted that it looks like only 10 people attend Sunday services because most sit out of range of the camera. Our average weekly attendance which is in the 40's can be found on the Parochial Report, but a picture says a thousand words. It would send a positive image if members could start sitting in the front pews.

When we received applications last month, we found services online that were performed by the candidates in their parishes. We were left with lasting impressions of how the candidates would fit into Holy Trinity and the information was a key to our decisions.

The slogan for our time in Transition is, 'Move forward so you can be seen.'

Thank You, Helen Short



## OPEN DOOR DINNERS

Holy Trinity Outreach Team is excited to announce we will be doing three outreach dinners this year. Each dinner will be led by different team leaders. These leaders will need people to help with shopping, setting up, prep, serving, and clean-up. Please know that these dinners are all made possible by everyone in the church finding a way to become involved in part of the wonderful opportunity for our community.

The dates for this year's dinners are April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The team leaders for each dinner are noted below. If you would like to help on any or several of these dinners, please contact one of the team leaders.

April 18<sup>th</sup>: Shelley Robtoy and Deanna Edwards

May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Natalie Good and Helen Short

June 20<sup>th</sup>: Laura Simons and Mary Wood

Blessings, Your Outreach Team

## Calendar

Wed Apr 3- Outreach meeting, 9AM

Thurs Apr 4- Commission Chairs meeting, 4:00PM

Sun Apr 7 – PastoralCare Team 9:15

Tues Apr 9- Vestry meeting, 5:30PM

Thurs Apr 18- Open Door Dinner, 5:30PM

Mon Apr 29- Special vestry St. John's meeting, 5:30

## ART WALL

Thank you so much to Darcey Messier, Priest at Grace, Sheldon and St. Luke St.Albans for her presentation of Icons and her painted presentation of her Icons on the wall in the parish hall for the month of March. For a week in July Darcey and a teacher artist friend will have a painting class for anyone wishing to have the experience of painting Icons. If interested please call Darcey at 1-802-380-1251.

Our next artist will be Linda Wirts who will present her watercolors this Spring in April and May.

## COFFEE HOUR

A time to thank everyone who has participated in any way with Coffee Hour after church on Sundays - on making it, baking it, buying it, putting it together and bringing it to church. It is always delicious and something new every week. The best! AND FOR THOSE WHO STAY AND DO THE DISHES!

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

On Wednesday evenings the church was open for quiet reflection and prayer at 5:00 pm, followed by a discussion of the book Naked Spirituality, presented by Fran and Ann and a bowl of soup and bread. Ten of us gathered in the parish hall with the computer, television and the book to discuss spirituality - dishes done and home by 8:00.

## WELCOME

Welcome to our new crucifer, Leanne Marie, and our new cleaning person, Jill Walsh

## Prayer

A grandfather was walking through his yard when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained: "I'm praying but I can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the letters and God can put them together for me because he knows what I'm thinking."

## Earth Day, April 22

### Let's Get Composting and Recycling!!

Food scraps and yard debris make up ~30% of a typical Vermont family's waste. At restaurants and cafeterias, food scraps can be over half of their waste. **In 2020, Vermont state law banned all food scraps from the landfill.**

Food scraps are parts of food items that are typically discarded rather than eaten. They include food that was not finished or leftovers that went bad. Any type of food can become scraps.

Yard debris include leaves, grass clippings, weeds, brush less than 1 inch in diameter, other compostable untreated vegetative (plant) matter.

**Compost can be taken to Hudaks or Solid Waste District sites.**

Vermonters produce over **624,862 tons** of solid municipal waste each year. Only **35%** of that waste gets recycled, composted, or reused. The rest goes in the trash, and eventually to a landfill. In **2012**, Vermont Legislation unanimously passed **the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148)** to cut its landfill waste. **The Law requires that all Vermonters recycle.**

**Blue-bin recycling** refers to the items that belong in a recycling bin. These items include empty and rinsed clean containers like bottles, cans, and jars, and clean and dry paper and cardboard. **It is illegal to dispose of these materials in the landfill in Vermont.**

### Martha's Kitchen Donations

Items requested for Martha's Kitchen for April are:

- Iced Tea Mix
  - Spaghetti Sauce
  - Baked Beans
  - Pasta
  - Ranch & Blue Cheese Dressing
- Collection in treasure chest in Narthex

### **Spectrum Youth**

#### **Meal Train® for St. Albans Drop-In Center**

Holy Trinity Church has volunteered to do drop off for the Spectrum Youth Meal Train on the **fourth Monday of Each Month**. If you are willing to supply a meal by yourself or with a partner, please speak to Helen Short or Mary Wood if you are interested in signing up for a date in the future. You may also wish to join one of the families below to help support their offerings. 223 Lake St. St Albans

Date	Name	Menu
Apr 22	Mary Hartman & Madeline Martin	Mac & cheese, salad, rolls and cookies
Jun 24	Mary Wood & Family	Taco Beef & Chicken Bar & Brownies
July 23	John & Laura Simon	TBD
Aug 26	Helen & Frank Short	TBD
Sept 23	Wally & Natalie Good	Lasagna & ice cream



### OUR LITTLE ROSES CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION SUNDAY, MAY 5

Over the last 30 years, Holy Trinity Church has provided Outreach support to Our Little Roses a school for girls in Honduras, Mexico. Several of our newer members of Holy Trinity, have expressed interest in learning more about our connection and the Our Little Roses School.

Members of the Outreach Team, would like to invite you save the date of Sunday, May 5th to attend a special Cinco de Mayo Lunch Celebration following the Sunday 10:00 service.

Come learn about Our Little Roses and enjoy a pot luck of Mexican Dishes. Word has it that Steve Marshall will be making a pot of his famous Chili!! Hoping to also have a pinata for the children to whack!



Sunday School to  
Learn About the Gift of  
Giving

**"The Love You Give Away is the Only Love You Keep"**

Our focus on our Easter Sunday School lesson was the theme of "Compassion". We spoke of how the death of Jesus on the cross was a sign that his love was all inclusive. This was a lesson for us to show concern for others as we work together to make our world a better place. We will find a way to open our hearts to others to build relationships and belonging.

Our focus for the Easter Season in Sunday School will be "Giving". As a group, we will learn about giving and charity. We will learn how one person can make a difference in our world. As a group, we will decide on a project we would like to undertake to demonstrate the power of giving.

Please look for more information as we work on our project. It would be wonderful if you can find a way to acknowledge the wonderful work our children will be doing.



An alcoholic friend of Philip Yancey once said to him:

"When I'm late to church, people turn around and stare at me with frowns of disapproval. I get the clear message that I'm not as responsible as they are. When I'm late to AA, the meeting comes to a halt and everyone jumps up to hug and welcome me. They realize that my lateness may be a sign that I almost didn't make it. When I show up, it proves that my desperate need for them won out over my desperate need for alcohol."

Let's make sure that people know how welcome they always are, that our table is really big and that there is always a place with their name on it at our table.

(Philip Yancey is an author on spirituality issues)



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**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Rob Giroux**
- 6 Erin Gagne**
- 9 Barbara Trushaw**
- 10 Dorothy Wootton, Annie Hartman**
- 12 Shawn Robtoy**
- 14 Stella Wood**
- 15 Bellamy Greenia**
- 19 Joe Cava**
- 20 Linda Wirts, Oliver Gagne**
- 21 Connor Nielsen**
- 24 Sarah Hadd**



*In New Life*

- Feb 15 Sylvia Skeels
- Mar 9 Florence Veronica Short
- Mar 9 Marjean Cipperly Good Smith
- Mar 19 Michael Emmet Walsh  
Jill's beloved cousin
- Mar 20 Elizabeth Lipscombe Ritchie  
Marianne Marshall's sister

*May they rest in peace*

*And rise in glory*