



HOLY TRINITY NEWS



FEBRUARY 2024

Priest in Charge Message

The Liturgical year covers the major events marking the life death and resurrection of Jesus between Advent and Pentecost. In the sequence: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, culminating with Pentecost, colors change in altar cloth, priest' stoles, and you notice changes in the hymnody, liturgical music, readings of Scripture. Then beginning with Trinity Sunday, there is the long green season which I equate with the lab practical of Christian Faith. Our faith is formed in the highlights of the Advent to Pentecost liturgies and practiced in our lives and worship in the remainder of the year. It is important that program, worship design, and participation continue throughout the year so that living into our Baptismal covenant proclaims the Gospel to the world.

During Lent it is traditional to offer additional opportunities to develop and deeper spirituality. Holy Trinity has several opportunities planned for the season of Lent this year and hope that you will choose what fits your current faith journey. The series on Wednesday evenings examines stages of faith: simplicity, complexity, perplexity and harmony. It is comforting to know that faith is not a static unchanging element but a dynamic part of living in relationship with God and all God's creation. Silent contemplation is also a fitting option for Lent as it invites us to be still and allow the presence of God to fill and renew our spirit. The Diocesan Baptismal Ministry program on Thursday is another choice and one that might appeal to those who value shared ministry within the parish. You may choose more than one offering, but I encourage you to at least taste and see if these opportunities feed your spirit.

Lent prepares us for Easter and the events of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day are especially poignant reminders of the depth and breadth of God's Love. I pray that we as a parish share a Holy Lent and all the joys of Easter. Romans 12: 9-13: "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

Ann+

Lenten Offerings

Keeping with the church's tradition of engaging in practices that deepen our spirituality, Holy Trinity will have three different offerings.

- 1) For those seeking quiet time for meditation, Linda Wirts will open the church at 5 pm each Wednesday.
- 2) For those desiring a period of reflection, the Diocese of Vermont in conjunction with the Diocese of Massachusetts is offering a series of reflections and conversation on the baptismal promises on Thursday evenings (see elsewhere in this newsletter for the details)
- 3) For those who want a teaching program, Ann and Fran will present a teaching series (Naked Spirituality) on Wednesday evenings from February 21- March 20 at 6 pm (see below for the details).

These offerings are in addition to regular Sunday Eucharist and Daily morning prayer. In addition to fasting (from TV, meat one day a week, social media, chocolate, etc.), taking on one or more of these offerings will help you nourish your faith as you prepare for Easter's celebration of the resurrection.

Naked Spirituality

Fran and Ann will present a teaching series on Brian MacLaren's book, **Naked Spirituality**, on Wednesday evenings during Lent (skipping Ash Wednesday and Holy Week). You do not need to read the book to profit from the series, although many will find it helpful. This book sets forth the spiritual life as a series of four stages – Simplicity, Complexity, Perplexity and Harmony. While one usually passes through the stages sequentially, you may also find yourself cycling back through a previous stage at various times during your life. Understanding the spiritual life in this way explains some of the difficulties we encounter discussing spiritual matters with other believers as we may be at different stages. We encourage you to explore this concept with us this Lent.

Fran and Ann

Annual Meeting Elections

3 yr terms: Sandi Kenyon

Shelley Robtoy

Helen Short

2 yr term: Adam Fournier

Delegates: Natale Good **Alternates:** Adam Fournier

Wally Good

Sandi Kenyon

Mary Wood

Helen Short

Vestry: Sarah Nielsen Senior Warden term thru 2024

Natalie Good Junior Warden 2025

Helen Short Clerk 2026

Kay Benedict 2024

Adam Fournier 2025

Sandi Kenyon 2026

Shelley Robtoy 2026

Steve Trushaw 2024

Mary Wood 2025

Steve Marshall, Treasurer Wally Good, Asst Treasurer



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Feb 13, 5:30

Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage

Maple syrup and other toppings

Eat, drink & be Merry

For tomorrow you diet

Lenten Program and Holy Week

Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, 6 pm service in the church with imposition of ashes. Light dinner of soup and bread to follow in parish hall

Wednesday Feb 21, 28, March 6, 13 and 20:

Linda Wirts will open the church for an hour of silent contemplation, prayer, reflection (5-6 pm). At 6 pm, Ann and Fran will offer a series of teachings about spirituality in the parish hall with conversation and a simple meal of soup and bread (6-7:30 pm).

Holy Week:

March 24: Palm Sunday 10 am service

Mon March 25: lay led worship 6 pm

Tues March 26: lay led worship 6 pm

Wed March 27: Seder meal in parish hall 6 pm

Maundy Thursday Service with Eucharist and Stripping of Altar 7 pm. Prayer vigil in chapel

Good Friday Services noon and 7 pm

Easter Day 10 am service

Transition Team Report

We have reached an important milestone in the transition process, preparing to interview candidates. Our interview areas such as Christian Education, Music, Worship, Administration, etc. have been determined. We have conducted one mock interview with Rev. Fran and we learned some things that will improve our skills:

1. Arrive an hour before the scheduled interview to review the candidate's information and to test the Zoom link.
2. Have a 'Plan B' ready.
3. Reduce the number of interview questions so it can be conducted in an hour.
4. Allow time for the candidate to ask us questions.

The interviews are designed for three people to ask questions, a couple people to observe the candidate, and another member of the interview team takes notes. We will conduct another mock interview with Rev. Ann before going 'live'.

The position has been posted and to date we have 4 applicants. The posting will close on February 12th and the applicants' information will be forwarded to us. The team will review the documents and decide whom we want to interview. After the first Zoom interview we will invite a couple of vestry members to participate in a second Zoom interview of the candidates that we feel are a good fit. If a candidate looks like they are a match to Holy Trinity after the second interview, the vestry will invite them to visit us with their significant other. After the on site visit, the Vestry will decide if they want to offer a contract.

In the meantime, the Rectory is getting some minor repairs and a face lift so it will look like a welcoming home for our new rector. We can not predict when Holy Trinity will have a new rector, but we are closer than we were a year ago. Helen Short

Calendar:

Sun 2/4- Pastoral Care meeting, 9:15AM

Mon 2/5- Outreach meeting, 9AM

Mon 2/12 – Vestry 5:30

Tues 2/13- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30

Wed 2/14- 6 pm Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist followed by soup

Mon 2/19- Office Closed

Wed 2/21 – Church open for Prayer 5 pm

Lenten Program & Soup 6pm

Wed 2/28 – Church open for Prayer 5 pm

Lenten Program & Soup 6pm

Thur 2/29 – Open Door Dinner @ Nativity

Baptism and Collaboration in the Body of Christ
Lent-Easter Devotional & Formation Program

This year, the Dioceses of VT and Mass are offering a joint Lenten devotional on the theme of Baptism and Collaboration in the Body of Christ. The devotional features lay, ordained, and monastic voices reflecting on the daily Scriptures of the season & the various Will you... questions of the baptismal covenant. The devotional will be available by download from the diocesan website. Worship & virtual conversation guided by each week's baptismal vow will be held on Thurs evenings – Feb 15, 22, 29; Mar 7, 14, 21, 28; and Apr 4 – from 5:45-7:45pm on the Green Mountain Online Abbey of the Diocese of VT LINK. All are welcome, RSVPs to awilson@diovermont.org.

Spectrum Youth

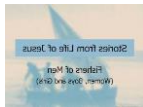
Meal Train® for St. Albans Drop-In Center

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
Feb. 26	Crystal Lampman & Family	TBD
Mar 25	Sarah Hadd & Family	TBD
Apr 22nd	Mary Hartman	TBD
June 24	Mary Wood & Family	Taco Beef & Chicken Bar & Brownies
July 23	John & Laura Simons	TBD
Aug 26 th	Helen and Frank Short	TBD
Sept 23 rd	Wally & Natalie Good	TBD

Preferred Drop-Off Time 4:45-5PM

People to Cook For 15 Kids



Update From Sunday School

Great things have been happening in Sunday School! During Epiphany, we have initiated role playing as we explore the life of Jesus from his baptism to the calling of his disciples. Just like Philip invited Nathanael to come & follow Jesus, we have learned that the power of inviting others to follow Jesus is all our calling. Did you know you can be Fishers of Men & Women too? As we get ready for Lent, we will make a banner to bury the Alleluia & explore how we can walk & love as Jesus did for us. We will unwrap our banner on Easter as we celebrate & sing the joyful Alleluias once again! Sunday School students would love to invite other youth to join them each week at 10:00. All are welcome!

ART WALL

A big thank you to Kay for her beautiful display of quilt art and her spiritual and historical story around each piece. A treasure.

In February we will have the art and crafts on the wall and table of Mary Hartman's mother, **Judy Ayer**. Judy moved to Swanton a year and a half ago from Florida and can be found painting, drawing, collecting treasures and doing jigsaw puzzles one place or another. During March, icons the Rev Darcey Mercier, St. Luke's, St Albans has written will be on the art wall. Rev Darcey will be with us after church at **noon on March 3rd** to share about the process of iconography.



SUNDAY SINGERS



A NEW opportunity for those who like to sing, but can't commit to midweek evening rehearsals:

On Sundays, rehearse with the choir at 9:15, vest and process for the 10 o'clock service. Help lead communion chants, introduce new hymns and service music, sing Psalm settings, and support congregational singing. (No anthem preparation, so NO midweek rehearsal commitment required.) Contact Kay at kayben1@yahoo.com if you would like to try it out. All are welcome!

Martha's Kitchen

During February, we will be collecting food for Martha's Kitchen. Items needed are:
 potatoes iced tea mix
 ranch & blue cheese dressing white tuna
 ground coffee cookie mixes
 Collection will be in the silver treasure chest by the church door. Thank you



Sign up for Lenten Meals

There will be a sign up on the bulletin board for soup and bread for the Wednesdays during Lent.

Linda B's Corner

Trust in Him at all times, you people;
Pour out your heart to Him,
For God is our refuge.
Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I
trust your commands

Be an Angel

Thinking about hurt and loss can feel bad. Take a moment to meditate on God's healing love. Now let's turn to others. Is there someone broken-hearted around you right now? What small act of kindness can you do, or what words of hope might you be able to speak? You can help someone heal through God's presence in you.

OPEN DOOR DINNERS

Nativity –Feb 29, Mar 23
Holy Trinity – Apr 18, May 23, June 20
Swanton Methodist - TBD



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AV/Tech: Lincoln Buczkowski



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2** Cindy Monahon, Ayen Abui
3 Steve Marshall
13 Steve Vittum
28 Adam Longe



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4** Doreen & Randy LaFlam
22 Katherine & David Winchester



In New Life

January 7

Robert Guerrina

May he rest in peace

And rise in glory