



HOLY TRINITY NEWS



JANUARY 2024

TRANSITION REPORT

Holy Trinity begins the new year ready to review applicants for the rector position. It may seem to have taken a long time to get to the point where we can receive names and interview candidates, but much work needed to be done to bring us to this point. Congratulations to the parish and the Transition Team for all the work you have done to date.

While a sub-committee continues to prepare the rectory, the Transition Team will focus on questions for the candidates. The Team will hold mock interviews with Ann and/or Fran on zoom to work out any kinks in the process. Ann and Fran have agreed to a six-month extension to our Letter of Agreement, or until call of new rector, whichever comes first. We will continue to work on addressing issues of communication and healing, as well as a planned teaching series during Lent.

Your continued prayers for the Transition Team and Vestry will be appreciated as we launch the next phase of the transition process.

Fran+

Priest-in-Charge Message

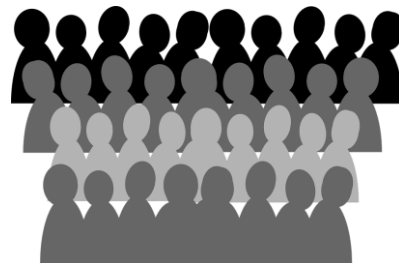
Behold I make all things new (Isa 43:19). 2024 is a new year, full of hopes and promises. This is the year that Holy Trinity will call their next rector. New relationships will form, maybe new commissions, and certainly new ministries. Wisdom teaches us that our past is part of our present and our future. Where we have been shapes our perspectives and vision of our present experiences and our future hopes. If we have been disappointed or deeply hurt by someone much loved, it can make it harder to trust and love again, but the truth of faith is that God's love is more than enough to heal whatever harm we have experienced. Authentic living accepts the shadow and the light of our lives. We are beloved of God, and the filling of our hearts and minds with that truth gives us more than we need, enough love to share. Trust that you and every member of Holy Trinity Church are God's beloved, every minute of every hour, of every day. With that truth firmly rooted in the core of your being, you are ready and open to welcoming the new rector, new ideas, new ministries....to wait and watch and see how God will make all things new.

Ann+

Annual Reports and Meeting

I am compiling information for the Annual Report. Please remember to submit your yearly commission reports to me by **Jan 15th**, if possible. The annual meeting will take place on **January 28th, 2024**.

Thanks, Kiley Boutah



Annual Meeting Elections

The Vestry is asking for nominations for Vestry and Convention for 2024. Open are 3- 3 year terms to Vestry and 3 delegates and 3 alternates to convention. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, please complete the nomination form and place it in the offertory plate or return it to the office. Nomination forms will be available on the sideboard in the main entrance.

Calendar

- Mon Jan 1- Office Closed
- Sun, Jan 7 – Pastoral Care Meeting, 9:15 am
- Sun Jan 7- Scholarship Sunday
- Mon Jan 8 - Vestry Mtg, 5:30 pm
- Thurs, Jan 25 – Open Door Dinner at Nativity
- Sun Jan 28 – ANNUAL MEETING
- Wed, Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday



OPEN DOOR DINNERS

- Nativity – Jan 25, Feb 29, Mar 23
- Holy Trinity – Apr 18, May 23, June 20
- Swanton Methodist - TBD

Good Morning,
On behalf of the Vestry of Holy Trinity I wanted to share an update with the parish about St. John's Highgate.

Rational for current decision-making process: The unsolicited call inquiring about purchase of the historic church was reported to the HT vestry Nov 11. The vestry decided to have a parish conversation to get a better sense of current interest in maintaining the 2003 agreement with the Diocese to take stewardship responsibility for St John's or to relinquish said responsibility to the Diocese of Vermont. The conversation concluded with a straw poll (20 forms were submitted) indicating a strong interest to continue oversight of St. Johns (6 votes) and equally strong sentiment to return the oversight to the Diocese (14 votes). There is no way of knowing how many other members of HT would prefer keeping or relinquishing responsibility for St. John's, however, the strength of sentiment expressed by those members interested in revitalizing program and investing time and effort to do so, is significant. A significant number of members, while acknowledging the spiritual and historical importance of St. John's, do not see how the human and fiscal resource of Holy Trinity can sustain St. John's. The vestry discussed the options in more depth at the Dec. 11 meeting and became aware of efforts by parishioners and friends of the parish for revitalization of the mission and ministry of St. John's. Therefore, a time should be set for a presentation and discussion as to what can be done at St. John's that enhances the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity, what would be the costs, how would it be funded and who would be needed to do the work.

The team of individuals excited and deeply interested in program development at St. John's are invited to submit a more detailed proposal to the vestry of HT at the Feb.12, 2024 Vestry Meeting. The proposal should address how current funds (St. John's Vicar's Fund and interest from St. John's endowments) and potential generation of new income would be used to sustain a program relevant to the interests and needs of the Swanton-Highgate community. A detailed (as possible) budget should be submitted. It is important to recognize that details include responsible parties for work related to St. John's without dependence on HT staffing (with the understanding that a new

rector may or may not prefer to participate in services or activities at St. John's). Services planned for St. John's should therefore not replace or overlap with the services at HT. Please contact Sandi Kenyon if you would be interested in participating in the proposal.
sakenyon@comcast.net

It is the intent of the vestry to respect energy for ministry in diverse forms. There is clearly energy connected to the St. John's church. The invited proposal will give the vestry more detail and a better understanding of interest to consider within the context of the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity.
Sarah Nielsen, Senior Warden

Transition Team Update

December was a less active month for the Transition Team due to Holy Trinity's Advent activities. On January 7th a subcommittee will meet to refine our interview questions and identify roles. During interviews of candidates, some Transition Team members will be asking questions while others will observe and take notes. The initial interview of candidates will be conducted via Zoom after we mock interview our interim rectors, Ann and Fran. When we identify a candidate we feel will be a good match for Holy Trinity, they will be invited to visit our parish to meet the Vestry, tour the area, and Rectory. After the candidate's visit, the Vestry will decide if a contract will be offered. The exciting news is our consultant has had inquiries from Rectors about our position. If you have met an Episcopal Priest you feel would be a good fit for HTC, please let them know about us and invite them to apply.
Helen Short

Transition Team Chair



Columbarium

The columbarium as a final gesture of gratitude to God for all the blessings you have received. Consider final arrangements. In life and in death, we belong to God. – Madeline Martin

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Service Scholarship

Matthew 5:16. ... Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Service Scholarship is open to all area students who are in pursuit of a higher education. Candidates for this scholarship have demonstrated a commitment to service in their community. When possible, one of the scholarships, will be offered to a present Holy Trinity Parish Member. Each year, Holy Trinity will offer at least two \$1,000 scholarships to individuals who apply and demonstrate successful completion of service projects which have benefited the greater community within Franklin County. This scholarship will be awarded upon successful completion of a first semester or after documentation of completion of an alternative program.

Applications must be delivered to Holy Trinity Church Outreach Committee, 38 Grand Avenue, Swanton, VT 05488 no later than March 1st of each year.

The recipient of the HTC Service Scholarship will be notified of the award on or before April 15th of each year.

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

E-Mail:

High School:

School/Program Attending:

Essay Questions

1. Briefly tell about church and civic volunteer and service activities you have participated in during high school. Please include positions of leadership and service and volunteerism in your present community.

2. Why have you decided to enter college or a trade school and what will be your goals on campus to continue your service and volunteerism?

3. Please tell us why community service is a valuable component for Someone? How does it benefit everyone involved?

4. Why are you deserving of this scholarship? Please explain your qualifications.

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.

Pledge Envelopes

For those who currently use pledge envelopes, you will be assigned a **new number for 2024**. Pledge boxes can be picked up from the sideboard in the main entrance.



CHRISTMAS EVE

The church hosted 3 Christmas Eve services with a grab and go snack after the 4 pm service and a delightful buffet of desserts after the 9 pm service. A thank you to those who helped set up the table after the 4 pm service with juice and cookie snacks for a grab and go. And a thank you to those who set up for the dessert buffet with delicious and beautiful contributions for our night feasting. A wonderful contribution to the late hour was Kay who snuck the piano into the parish hall for some caroling and just good listening late in the evening. And then here were those who cleaned up. YES! Candlelight is always welcome.

* * * * *

The one who blames others has a long way to go on their journey.

The one who blames themselves is halfway there.

The one who blames no one has arrived.

Chinese Proverb



Angels All Around Us

Recognizing the presence of angels around you may make you feel like you've walked from the shadows into the warmth of sunshine. Suddenly, you feel the nourishment that comes from someone taking the time to look out for you and you alone. There isn't any valley low enough that an angel can't carry you through it. An angel's song on a lonely night is like a sweet friend's voice.



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Facilities Manager: George Plante

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Sexton: James McDonald

802 582-5596

Cleaning Services: Jill Walsh

AV/Tech: Lincoln Buczkowski



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lorie Bullard
- 3 Jackson Gagne
- 4 Grace Heald, Paul Leduc
- 14 Marc Poissant
- 17 Mary Hartman
- 18 Brigit Reyes – Our Little Rose
- 19 Shirley Barratt
- 25 Eadoin Murphy
- 27 Alex Longe



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Meghan & Adam Fournier



In New Life

Dec 27

Virginia Wiley Bowles

Shelley Robtoy & Adam Fournier's grandmother
John Fournier's mother-in-law

May she rest in peace

And rise in glory