

What is a church?

In a recent conversation with a friend, we discussed what distinguishes a church from any other social or community organization. Church is the Body of which Jesus Christ is the head and all baptized persons are members. In the creeds, the church is described as one, holy, catholic and apostolic. It is one because it is one Body under one Head, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is holy because the Holy Spirit dwells in it and its members to guide them to do God's work. It is catholic because it proclaims the whole Faith to all people. It is apostolic because it continues in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles sent to bear the Gospel to all people. The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. (BCP pp 854-855).

Social organizations are established to help with specific issues, usually because of great need. Examples include advocates for the homeless, soup kitchens, youth centers, programs for people with special needs such as Healing Waters a fly-fishing program for disabled veterans. These organizations raise money, recruit volunteers, and do great service to neighbors near and far. Some of them are connected to a faith tradition, others are entirely secular. It is common for churches to partner with secular groups to combine efforts to provide the most support for the target group. Empty Bowls at Martha's Kitchen the first Saturday in May is a good example. The motivation may be similar or distinct. Awareness that our neighbors struggle to earn enough money for housing, clothing, food, childcare, and health care moves us to compassion for that person in need is a fellow traveler in the journey of life.

Being a member of a church encourages us to care for our neighbors and for one another as members of the Body of Christ. If a person within the congregation has a need, is sick, homebound, he or she may or may not make their need known. It is challenging to know when a person is not attending services due to illness, or depression, or simply traveling for fun or work. Caring may mean asking while respecting the dignity of every person means being sensitive and supportive without being intrusive. To care for one another requires an element of mutual trust.

The ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons. All members are to represent Christ wherever they may be and be part of the worship and governance of the church. All Christians are called to come to corporate worship, to work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God. The priest is set-aside (called) to be a pastor to the people, to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church, to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God. (BCP 855-856) As your "temporary" priest, I care about you individually and collectively. I am interested in your projects, your faith and the process of being beloved community at Holy Trinity. Ann+

The work of a priest

A common remark made to priests and pastors is, "You only work on Sunday!" A bit like a similar remark often made about school teachers ("Must be nice having the whole summer off!"), this comment is usually passed off as a joke but actually discounts the work of the individual involved. I will leave teachers to explain their jobs but will take this opportunity to elaborate on the work of a priest.

Priesthood is a vocation, a calling. Much more than a job, priesthood is a state of being, an existential understanding of who one is and how one moves in the world. The Episcopal Church defines the orders of ministry as laity, priests and deacons. All orders are grounded in our baptisms where we incorporated into the body of Christ, the church. All begin as laity, with the duty of sharing the good news of Christ and the healing love of God to the world. All Christians share this vocation, this calling. Some believe God calls them to a different way of being in the world, that is, to ordination. Ordination sets one apart for a particular ministry, that is, the Church affirms that the person has the gifts and calling to do that ministry. Some are ordained Vocational Deacons, called to bring the needs of the community to the attention of the church, some are ordained Priest (with a time as a Transitional Deacon) to be ministers of Word and Sacrament, "to work as a pastor, priest and teacher" (Book of Common Prayer, p 531) and some are consecrated Bishop, called to be "one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ's resurrection and interpreting the Gospel, and to testify to Christ's sovereignty as Lord of lords and King of kings, ... to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church", to ordain priests and deacons, and to "share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world." (All quotes from Book of Common Prayer, p. 517).

Common to all orders of ministry is the word "called," that is, each is a vocation to which we are called by God. Priests understand themselves to be called to preach the Good News, to teach people about theology and sacraments, to lead the people of God into a deeper relationship with God, and to work with the people of a particular place in becoming the people God calls us all to be. To live into our call, priests will spend time in study, sermon preparation (the rule of thumb is one hour study for one minute of sermon). They will make connections within the community to empower the ministry of the church. Priests will spend a significant amount of time working with other members of the Diocese in the work of the Diocese. Priests also expect to be called at times of need for pastoral care, and to provide prayer and support during times of crisis and celebration.

For a priest to be what she or he is ordained to be, the people of the church need to understand these aspects of the calling. If we, the church, support our priests, bishops and deacons with prayer and by working with them, we will grow into the Beloved Community, the Body of Christ, that we were baptized to be. The people of Holy Trinity are called to this work as our seek and welcome your next priest and rector. Fran Stanford+



OUR LITTLE ROSES
CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, MAY 5

Holy Trinity Church to Celebrate Cinco de Mayo Day with an informational presentation on Our Little Roses and Honduras Pot Lunch.

Over the last 30 years, Holy Trinity Church has provided Outreach support to Our Little Roses a school for girls in Honduras. 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 come on 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 potluck of Honduras Dishes. Word has it that Steve Marshall will be making a pot of his famous chili and the Wood Family will provide a taco bar! **Please bring a small Honduras side dish to go along with our potluck.**

Children will be invited to participate in our Sunday Service as servers, greeters, acolytes and bell ringers. Youth leaders will be contacting church youth to arrange for participation. Youth will also need to help with celebrating with a Pinata during the reception!!

Honduras Foods: Beans, Rice, Tortillas, Tropical Fruit like mango, papaya, bananas. Foods are often spiced with broth, and garlic. Foods are made with chicken, beef, and fish and are served with sides of beans, rice and tortillas. Check out this website if you are interested in exploring some recipes from Honduras.

<https://domesticfits.com/hon>

<https://www.goway.com/travel-information/central-and-south-america/honduras/food-and-drink/>



Martha's Kitchen Empty Bowls & Plant Sale
Sat, May 4, 1:30-4
139 Lake St, St. Albans
\$25 for a locally handmade ceramic bowl & some delicious soup
Also a plant sale

Calendar

Wed 5/1- Outreach meeting, 9AM

Sun 5/5 - Pastoral Care meeting, 9:15AM

Our Little Roses/ Cinco de Mayo Celebration during coffee hour

Mon 5/13- Vestry meeting, 5:30PM

Thurs 5/16- CVOEO Welcome Home gathering, parish hall, 4PM

Sat 5/18- Marc Poissant's funeral 11:00 at Goss; Reception in Parish Hall, 1PM

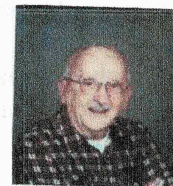
Thurs 5/23- Open Door Dinner, 5:30PM

Sun 5/26- Trinity Sunday

Mon 5/27- Memorial Day - Office Closed

Funeral & Reception for Marc Poissant

On Saturday, May 18th, we will gather to celebrate the life of our dear Marc Poissant. His memorial service will be held at Goss Memorial Services at 11:00 on May 18th. For greater details, please get future updates on the Goss Memorial Page. Holy Trinity will hold a reception following the services. We plan to gather around 1:30 at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall. All are welcome to come and share stories of the wonderful memories we have of Marc and his time with us at Holy Trinity.



Crystal Lampman Honored!

Holy Trinity's Outreach Team would like to announce that one of our Holy Trinity Members was awarded the Vermont Prevention Champion Award for 2024 at the Annual Prevention Day. This award was given to Crystal Lampman for her work with youth in our community.

Prevention Day, is an opportunity to celebrate those individuals that have worked to promote, advocate, and educate individuals to work on prevention of substance misuse. They work to help keep Vermonters and their communities safe and healthy.

We are blessed to have Crystal as an active part of our parish and appreciate that she was honored for her service with the youth in our community.



Spectrum's St. Albans Drop-In Center

Spectrum's St. Albans Drop-In Center is 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.

- Eat a free meal. We serve lunch and dinner every weekday at 12 and 5pm
- Use a computer, printer, or phone
- Do laundry
- Get clothing
- Take a shower
- Learn about topics such as life skills, healthy relationships, navigating stress, self-care, job readiness, parenting, and safe dating
- Get help with needs such as applying for jobs or state benefits or identifying safe, stable housing options

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

Meals: 12:00pm and 5:00pm, M-F.

St. Albans Drop-In Center

223 Lake Street, St. Albans 802-777-8749

Holy Trinity supplies a meal for about 15 people at Spectrum the last Monday of each month. Talk to Mary Wood if you want to help.

OPEN DOOR DINNERS

Thursdays May 23rd & June 20th, 5:30.

If you would like to help on any or several of these dinners, please contact one of the team leaders.

May 23rd: Natalie Good and Helen Short
Shepherds pie and peach cobbler

June 20th: Laura Simon and Mary Wood
spaghetti and meatballs, toss salad, garlic bread & applesauce cake



Thank you Very Much

Thank you for your most generous donations to Martha's Community Kitchen in the months of February and April. You made an impact - feeding some of the most vulnerable and marginalized. Holy Trinity will be collecting food items every other month. A list of needs will be posted again in June.

RESPONSES TO OPEN DOOR DINNER

"Just delicious"

"First time I came"

"Will be here next month"

"What a wonderful dinner"

"Thank you so much for doing this"

"So glad we came - will be back"

"Saw lots of people I know"

"Thank you for all your good work"

"The potatoes were delicious - taking some home"

BIRTHDAYS

Starting in June, Fellowship will be celebrating each month's birthdays on the first Sunday of the month with a birthday cake. The first Sunday in June will be June 2nd .

WELCOME HOME

We have 3 families moving into new homes and supplies are needed for their kitchen:

dish soap

sponges

laundry detergent

13 gal. trash bags

pillows

any items you wish to give

Collection will be Sundays May 5th & 12th in the Narthex. You are invited to a tea party on Thursday, May 16th at 4:00 PM in thanksgiving to those churches and folks that are contributing to Welcome Home. Please come.



Trinity Sunday Celebration

May 26

You won't want to miss the **Celtic service** Ann and Fran have put together for **Trinity Sunday!** And there will be Celtic treats at coffee hour. No haggis!

WHAT IF YOU
WOKE UP
TODAY
WITH ONLY
THE THINGS
THAT YOU
THANKED
GOD
FOR YESTERDAY?

Linda Bruyette's Angel Corner
Be An Angel

Remember Jesus' words about abiding and joy were some of his last. If you could plan your own last words what would they be? What message would you want to send to the people you love right before you went home to heaven? Like an angel speak that message with joy.

You mean so much to so many! You have been someone's wings, someone's guiding star, someone's rock and someone's inspiration. You have been the one that makes hard times easier, good things possible and dreams come true.

Thank goodness for you!

Angels are unseen hands that applaud you and the Heavenly voices that cheer you on. All you have to do is listen & look with your heart.

**Memorial Bench Honoring Marianne Marshall
1950-2023**

Marianne Marshall was an active member of our church and the surrounding community. She believed that life was "about God, it's about love, share God's light". Marianne shared her love of God with Holy Trinity's Youth when she taught Sunday School and was a member of HTC's Outreach Team. Marianne volunteered for over 10 with Holy Trinity's annual Cooking Camp which focused on Godly Deeds and Nutrition. She also served on the Board of Directors at Rock Point and shared her love of God as a volunteer at the Rock Point Summer Conferences.

Marianne, using her skills as a lawyer, helped clients improve their lives without concern for their ability to pay her. She was instrumental in assisting Abenaki families living in Swanton gain ownership of the land their homes were built on. With her husband Steve, she helped HTC and its members navigate legal issues, accepting minimal or no payment for their services. The Marshall children; Cindy, George, Mary, and Katy grew up as active participants at HTC emulating Marianne's love of God.

To honor Marianne, Holy Trinity's Outreach Team is purchasing a stone bench to be placed near the Bell Tower which houses the Columbarium for people to sit on when visiting their departed loved ones. If you wish to contribute to the bench, please complete the form below and place it in an envelope labeled, "Marianne Marshall Memorial Bench Donation." And please write Marianne's Bench on the memo line.

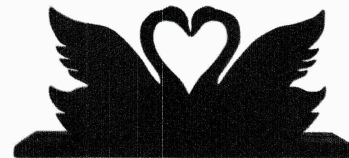
The bench will be dedicated during July of this year when all the Marshall Family are present.

Forms and envelopes are available on the sideboard in the Narthex.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Daniel Wood
- 8 Dick Hersey, Dawn Sparling
- 9 Steve Trushaw
- 10 Jessica Dittmar
- 11 Kyle Trushaw
- 14 David Wood, Samson Kenyon
- 22 Theodore Dittmar
- 26 Julie Charland, Duncan Hadd, Alex Wirts
- 28 Joshua Gagne
- 30 Jon Nielsen



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Pat & Peter Abui
- 25 Lou Anne & Daniel Wood



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

38 Grand Ave, Swanton, VT 05488

Office 868-7185

Website: holytrinityswanton.org

The Rev Ann Boyd 301-471-1861

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: Jill Walsh

AV/Tech: Lincoln Buczkowski