



HOLY TRINITY NEWS

January 2025



The Work of Christmas – From the Rector

Christmas is all about trees and lights and stars and ornaments and Santas and snow and shepherds and babies, right? It is about gathering with family and going to church and giving gifts that come from the heart. Cookies and pies and good food and cards are all a part of our celebrations. Eventually though, the decorations get put away, family goes home, cards are recycled, and all of the good food has been eaten. What happens then? Does Christmas and all that it is about (which is more than just what is listed above!) get packed away until next December?

Howard Thurman, American author, philosopher, theologian and civil rights leader speaks to this in his book “The Mood of Christmas”. I share his words with you today as a reminder of the work we are called to participate in every day of the year.

The Work of Christmas
—by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Kathleen+

Rector's Office Hours

Tues: 2 - 7pm Weds: 2 - 4:30pm

Thursdays: 8:30 - Noon; 2 - 4pm

Friday is a Sabbath day away from work, including emails.

If there is a pastoral emergency, please call my cell phone
301 848-6069



Scholarship Sunday

Holy Trinity Church

January 5th 10:00

Please join us at Holy Trinity Church to celebrate the two recipients of our HTC Service Learning Scholarship. Leah Fitzgerald and Rachel Ledoux and their families will be joining us to accept their scholarships. They will share about what they have completed in their studies during their first semester of college. We will also have donation envelopes available for individuals who would be interested in contributing to the HTC Service Scholarship Fund. Thank you for planning to join us to support these amazing individuals. They have, and will continue to make a difference in our local community.

Parking and the sidewalk

Just a friendly reminder that when folks park in front of the church it is appreciated if we try not to park over the sidewalk area. There is plenty of room for most cars to be safely inside the lane line. Doing this keeps the sidewalk clear for anyone walking and allows for the sidewalk to be more easily cleared of snow.

Sunday School Teachers needed!

For the months of January, February, and March assistance is needed with our Sunday school classes. The lesson plans will be provided and it is typically a relatively small gathering of children. You will need to be at church by 9:30am and will be with the kids until the announcements in the service, approximately 10:30am and someone will come down to let you know that it is time to come upstairs with the kids. Please let Rev. Kathleen know if you are able to take this on! rector@holytrinityswanton.org

The following is a copy of a letter presented to Kathleen on Christmas Eve in appreciation for her service to our parish families

The MAGIC Foundation

4200 Cantera Dr., Suite 106
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear MAGIC Foundation Representative,

It was with great appreciation for your foundation that parish members at Holy Trinity Church in Swanton, Vermont recently learned about the work that your non-profit does to raise the awareness and importance of early interventions related to endocrine-related growth disorders. We understand that you provide support and education to families and medical professionals.

Each year, our parish selects to honor our rector by making a gift in their name to a non-profit that has played a significant part in their lives. Enclosed you will find a \$500 donation in honor of Rev. Kathleen Schotto. Please know that she has a wonderful knowledge and appreciation for the work your organization provided for her family.

Thank you as you continue to do MAGIC for lives of others through your organization. You continue to be a wonderful resource for families and individuals who are experiencing challenges when addressing growth disorders.

Blessings,
Sarah Nielsen,
Senior Warden
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Wed 1/1- Office Closed, New Year's Day
Sun 1/5- Pastoral Care Mtg 9:15
Scholarship Sunday
Tues 1/7- Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
Sun 1/12- Art Wall presentation by Brigit Krans during coffee hour
Mon 1/13- Vestry meeting, 5:00pm
Tues 1/14- Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
Tues 1/21 - Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
Sun 1/26 – ANNUAL MEETING
Sun 1/28 – Choir, Rehearsal 7 pm
Morning Prayer Tues-Sat, 8AM in the Chapel.

ART WALL

Thank you Kathleen for sharing with us the history of St. Nicholas and the history of Santa Claus through your own story via the quilt, objects of art & story line of "way back when". How a small gift can go round -the-world with such meaning. Thank you for your generosity of spirit.

On January 2nd our artist for January will hang her paintings and possibly those of a family member on the Art Wall. Brigit Krans, is from the Netherlands (Holland) and lives with her husband Martin on South Hero. She paints with oils and watercolors and will bring a selection of paintings to share with us. On Sunday, January 12th, she will introduce herself and paintings during coffee hour.

Vestry Update: December

- *All things heating; a boiler, a furnace, a heater
- *Potential date for Celebration of New Ministry, July
- *Need Sun School Teacher for Jan, Feb & Mar
- *Scholarship Sunday January 5



Open Door Dinners

5:30

Nativity/St Louis Roman Catholic
Thursdays Jan 30, Feb 27, Mar 27
Holy Trinity Episcopal
Thursdays, Apr 24, May 22, Jun 26

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Service Scholarship

It is with great excitement that your Holy Trinity Outreach Team continues to offer annual scholarships to area youth.

The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Service Scholarship will be open to all area students who are in pursuit of a higher education. Candidates for this scholarship must have demonstrated a commitment to service in their community. When possible, one scholarship 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.

These scholarships will be awarded upon successful completion of a first semester or after documentation of completion of an alternative program.

The recipient of the HTC Service Scholarship will be notified of the award on or before April 15th of each year. Applications must be delivered to Holy Trinity Church Outreach Committee, 38 Grand Avenue, Swanton, VT 05488 no later than March 1st of each year.

Applications available – speak to Mary Hartman or Mary Wood.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Service Scholarship

I (we), _____ believe in the connection of service to church and community and want to support Holy Trinity's efforts to promote this in our area youth. Our donation of \$ _____ will be placed in a scholarship account to allow for the establishment and continued annual scholarships for future students.

Date: _____
Donor(s) Signature

Please mail donations to: Mary Wood, Outreach Chairperson, Holy Trinity Church Outreach Committee, 38 Grand Avenue, Swanton, VT 05488

***Thank you!
Mary Wood***

Spectrum Youth Center Meals – Hosts needed!

Spectrum Youth Drop-In Center in St. Albans provides a warm place and a meal for youth in need on a daily basis. Holy Trinity partners with them to provide dinner on the fourth Thursday of every month. At the moment we are covered with hosts through Mar 24, 2025. Needed days are Apr 28, May 26, Jun 23, Jul 28, and August 25.

Meals are for approximately 15 kids and the preferred drop off time is 4:45 – 5pm as dinner is served from 5-6pm. If the meals need to be cooked or baked that is possible if they are dropped off early enough. Meals can also be sent from local restaurants if that is easier and the youth enjoy pizza delivery as well. The drop off location is on Lake Street in St. Albans.

Please sign up on the sheet in the parish hall (near where coffee hour food is set up) or speak to Rev. Kathleen.



Diaper Tree

The Outreach team would like to thank you for your donations to the diaper & wipe project. This will be an ongoing ministry, so donations are always accepted. You may leave donations in the narthex or on the card table in the parish hall. Once we get the rest of what we need and add it to the inventory spreadsheet, we will be asking for volunteers to secure dates and times of operation, then we will move on to creating signs to be distributed around the community where appropriate and area churches.



Wait, Stop

Please do not use the kitchen sinks! The stainless steel sinks & dishwasher in the kitchen are currently out of order. There is a hole in the grease trap which allowed water to flood the basement bathroom below. We have contacted a plumber to fix the issue but it will take a bit more time than anticipated.

Why we Build the Wall

Because we have and they have not!
Because they want what we have got!
The enemy is poverty
And the wall keeps out the enemy
And we build the wall to keep us free
That's why we build the wall
We build the wall to keep us free
What do we have that they should want?
My children, my children
We have a wall to work upon!
We have work and they have none
And our work is never done
My children, my children
And the war is never won
The enemy is poverty
And the wall keeps out the enemy
And we build the wall to keep us free
That's why we build the wall
We build the wall to keep us free
We build the wall to keep us free

Hadestown, 2012

Linda's January Angels from the Heart
Your Guardian Angel is always with you
wherever you go; take your strengths with
you.

Hope is always at your side and joy is never far
Dream big, doubt small!

There's always something to look forward to;
your angel knows why

You are one of the wonderful ones

Think one positive thought and more will follow
This day holds so much pride, your angel says
& so do you

Your Inner Beauty shows Strength and Smarts,
Humor and heart, Interests and Idea, love and
loyalty. There is so much within you that
makes you radiant. Real Beauty is part of who
you are. Without any help at all, you glow more
than you know! Your Angel will always be
there.

An Angel in Blue

A five-year-old boy was on his way to bed for
the night. His mother offered to go upstairs to
tuck him in. "No thanks, Mom" he said "I'm not
afraid; the Lady in Blue is there for me."

Bringing the Facts Together

Though angels are invisible, they can be seen
by humans. Angels are localized & have to
engage in spatial travel to go from one place
to another. Angels are holy; they are set apart
from sin & set apart to God. Angels are
immortal – they do not die.

Reach out to someone in need & some day they
might call you an angel. Angels are the unseen
hands that cheer you on. All you have to do is
listen & look with your heart. To sense the
presence of an angel is like feeling the wind all
around you. You cannot actually see the wind
but you notice its movement and you know it's
there.

Be an Angel

Take a deep breath and consider... what is the
one thing you have been waiting for someone
else to change? How might you change first.
Why not try that instead today?



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jackson Gagne**
- 4 Grace Heald**
- 17 Mary Hartman, Majuch Abui**
- 18 Brigit Reyes**
- 19 Shirley Barratt**
- 25 Eadoin Murphy**
- 27 Alex Longe**



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Meghan & Adam Fournier**



In New Life

Nov 25 Donald Robtoy
Shawn Robtoy's brother

Nov 27 Karen Skalski
Margaret Schotto's sister

Dec 23 Jeanie Doliber
Mary Gladden's daughter

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

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