



HOLY TRINITY NEWS

JANUARY 2026



Star Words - From the Rector

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that another year is beginning – and as always – it is rather exciting. The year in front of us is open to all kinds of possibilities and dreams. There will be hopes achieved, laughter had, dreams imagined, and tears cried. There are books to read, writing to do, movies to watch, and Legos to build (okay – maybe that last one is just my house). We know that 2026 won't all be beautiful and amazing, life doesn't work that way. There will however be moments of joy and love – because life DOES work that way. We can work to bring the light and life and love of God to all that we meet and into every situation we face. In order to help us on this journey through 2026 I want to introduce you to "Star Words".

On the table in the narthex, from January 4 until the beginning of Lent, there will be two bowls labeled "Star Words". One bowl will be for adults, the other for kids. Inside each bowl will be slips of paper each with a word printed on it. Please take one of these slips. There should be enough for everyone and if there is not – I can print more!

This will be your "star word" for 2026. It is meant to provide some guidance through the year – much like the star guided the magi to the stable. I encourage you to put the word somewhere you can see it every day. Look up the meaning of the word. Is it an action you can take on a regular basis? Is it a different way of looking at the world? It is possible that the word might, at first, feel like something that doesn't fit you – but walk with it, consider it you might be surprised where it takes you. I look forward to hearing from you about your experience with your Star Word.

Kathleen+

Inter-generational formation Dates and Topics

During coffee hour in the parish hall

January 18 – Sacraments of the Church: What is the difference between a sacrament and a sacramental rite? How many are there? What do they actually MEAN? Join in to learn about these important parts of our spiritual journey as individuals and as a community.

Mark your calendars!

There are already two major events on the calendar for 2026 so please mark your calendars now!

Sunday, January 25, 2026 – Annual Parish meeting – we'll celebrate all that happened in 2025, talk about what might be happening in 2026, vote for new vestry members, and enjoy each others' company. This will take place following the 10am service.

Sunday, February 1, 2026 – Bishop Shannon will be with us!! This is our chance to brag a bit about who we are and what we are accomplishing in our community. There will be ONE service that day (no 8am service) and it will be at 11am (not 10am). This visit is also a chance for baptism (by the bishop), confirmation, and reception. If you are interested in any of these please speak with Rev. Kathleen as soon as possible. Here is a brief description of these rites:

- Baptism: Ceremonial rite of initiation into the Christian faith.
- Confirmation: The strengthening of baptized for continued life in and with the Church. This presumes that the person has been baptized and is making a conscious decision to receive the prayers of the Bishop and the laying on of hands.
- Reception: This is a rite for individuals previously confirmed in certain other Christian churches. These churches include, but are not limited to: Anglican Churches, Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Thurs 1/1 & Fri 1/2- Office Closed

Sun 1/4- Scholarship Sunday

Tues 1/6- Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Sat 1/10 – 3 pm, 12th Night @ St Paul's Methodist

Tues 1/13- Fellowship Crafts & Tea, 1-3pm
- Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Sun, 1/18 = 2:30 Family Movie

Tues 1/20- Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Sun 1/25- Annual Meeting, 11am

Tues 1/27- Crafts & Tea, 1-3pm



Holy Trinity Scholarship Sunday

Sun, Jan 4, 2026

Please join us during coffee hour to celebrate the presentation of 2025 Scholarship recipients and hear about their course of study and the work they have done this year to promote Service Learning in their communities.

All past recipients are encouraged to attend!

Eagan Murphy 2022 Ella Partlow 2022
Connor Nielsen 2023 Abigail Raleigh 2023
Leah Fitzgerald 2024 Rachel Ledoux 2024



Twelfth Night: A Winter Celebration An Ecumenical Event

Saturday, January 10th, 3 p.m.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, St Albans

Featuring: Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble, FCSC Singing Seniors, Gathering music by organist Stephan Conrad begins at 2:45 p.m.

Come celebrate the birth of Christ, the arrival of the Three Kings and Winter in music, scripture and readings Freewill offering to benefit Tim's House

Fellowship

First, I want to thank everyone who pitches in where needed at Holy Trinity and for the food provided at coffee hours and on for our Christmas Eve Festive Celebration.

The Crafts, Tea, and Cookies dates are January 10th and 24th. We'll continue to meet from 1-3PM. We having a Family Movie on Sunday, January 18th, at 2:30. The movie will be a Disney movie, title to be determined. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. If you have a popcorn popper and are willing to loan it for the event we'll be ever so grateful.

On February 15th we will show "The Philadelphia Eleven" which is about the first women priests to be ordained in the Episcopal Church. Area churches and the public will be invited to the event. There will be popcorn and drinks as well. On March 15th there will be another Family Movie.

Helen Short, Fellowship Chair

Open Door Dinners Nativity/St. Louis

Thursdays Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 12, 5:30

Holy Trinity

Thursdays Apr 23, May 28, Jun 25

Geraldine Mary Gladden

Mary was born June 8th 1931 and died on December 9th 2025. Per her wishes a private graveside service with her family attending will take place in the spring of 2026. Her family would like to thank her friends from the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Swanton, The Hawks Nest in Saint Albans where she resided and from the community. All of you made it possible for her to stay in her home for as long as possible. This was very important to her. She was blessed to live in such a caring community and we will always remember your kindness. Memorial contributions may be sent to

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 38 Grand Ave.

Swanton, Vermont in memory of Mary Gladden, or to another organization of your choosing. Thank you. The family of Geraldine Mary Gladden.

Diaper Ministry Update

Open Mons and Wed 10 - 1

February, 2025 3 visits

6 wipes packages and 16 diaper packs

March, 2025 25 visits

38 wipes packages and 65 diaper packs

April, 2025 20 Visits

Personal Care products began: 73 taken 40

18 wipes 54 diaper packs

May, 2025 19 visitors + 1 (food, blanket, sleeping bag)

Personal Care products distributed: 77

19 wipes 27 diaper packs

June, 2025 17 visits

Personal Care products distributed: 88

17 wipes 24 diaper packs

July, 2025 26 visits

Personal Care products distributed: 178

41 wipes 53 diaper packs

August, 2025 17 Visits

Personal Care products distributed: 51

20 wipes 29 diaper packs

September, 2025 31 visits

Personal Care products distributed: 207

33 wipes 2 large refills 42 diaper packs

October, 2025 32 visits

Personal Care products distributed: 134

49 wipes 52 diaper packs

November, 2025 31 visits

Personal Care products distributed: 131

47 wipes 49 diaper packs

December, 2025 23 visits

Personal Care products distributed: 67

22 wipes diaper packs 30

Total for the year: 244 visits

Personal Care products distributed: 976

311 wipes diaper packs 442

Outreach Team Gives Thanks!



As we turn the page on the calendar, I want to take time to reflect on the wonderful work the Outreach Commission has done this year. With the help of the team we have spread the light of Holy Trinity to many corners of our community, state and world. This could not have been achieved without the dedication, resilience, and teamwork of our members, the parish and community volunteers. The positive energy directed towards our projects helps to bring the best out of everyone whose lives we touch.

We meet the first Monday of each month at 9:00 in the parish hall. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting will be on February 2, 2026. Please come to check us out!

Please take time to thank Holy Trinity's Outreach Members for their unwavering commitments and for consistently working to make a difference in our world!

Your Outreach Team

Deanna Edwards, Natalie Good, Shelley Robtoy, Helen Short, Linda Wirts, Mary Hartman, Mary Wood, Laura Simon, Kathleen Schotto, Molly Hartman-Lontine, Lou-Anne Wood, and Crystal Lampman

Special Appreciation to:

Kiley Boutah, Lisa Way, Jill Walsh, George Plante, Adam Fournier and all the many people who work on Dinners, Pies For Bonnie and the Diaper/Wipe Project

Spectrum Youth

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. Information about Drop-Off location and times can be found below.

Date	Name
January 26th	Mary Hartman
February 23rd	Kathleen and Margaret Schotto
March 23rd	Helen and Frank Short
April 27 th	Deanna and John Edwards
May 25 th	Laura and John Simon
June 22 nd	Mary and Dave Wood
July 27th	
August 24 th	
September 28th	

Welcome Home Update

Thank you to Holy Trinity for the consistency in our contribution of \$1,000.00 to Welcome Home so as to contribute to the wellness of those persons without a home, living in the woods, transitioning to housing in Franklin and Grand Isle.

Holy Trinity collaborates with:

CVOEO of Franklin/Grand Isle

Congo Church, S.Hero

St. Luke's, St. Albans

First Congo Church, St. Albans

Grace Episcopal Church, Sheldon

Sheldon Interfaith Food Shelf

Girl Scouts locally

Other churches and businesses

WH works with housing case workers from Community Action

Voices Against Violence

Samaritan House

Restorative Justice Center

Pathways

Spectrum Youth and Family Services

Reach-up

WH serves an average of 6-7 individuals or families to be housed a month

Housing requires pillows, blankets, mops, brooms, dishes, cleaners, trash cans, pots and pans which Holy Trinity contributes to twice a year -Spring and Fall

Linda Wirts, Liaison Welcome Home

Vestry Update – Dec 8th meeting

*Approved the 2026 Draft Budget

*Prioritized Capital Improvements for 2026 - two of these we already have quotes for. The other two will have quotes gathered and decisions made in the coming year.

Repairing a leak in the basement bathroom

Replace the pedal board for the organ

Replace the vinyl flooring in the kitchen

Replace/upgrade/change the Audio-Visual in the church for better livestreaming and audio

*Worked on finalizing the slate of candidates for vestry elections

*Pledge cards can still be turned in! If you have not yet submitted on please give consideration to what you are called to share with our community

*Join us for Christmas Eve services!

Linda B's January Angels Corner from the Heart

1-Each new day can be better than before
 2-Jump start your dreams; it's the new year & your angels are near. Believe
 3-You are never less than good enough
 4-Our angels say you are in the right direction
 5-No one deserves happiness more than you do
 6-You impress people
 7-Be your own cheerleader. You are someone worth rooting for
 Happiness is not a station you traveled but one you arrived at
 This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it
 Angels live forever; once created they never cease to exist. Indeed scriptures clearly state that angels are not subject to death
 Intelligence angels possess great wisdom and they use their minds to look into matters
 Emotions are in joyful assembly in the presence of God in Heaven
 Moral will – angels make many moral decisions
 Praise Him, Sun and Moon
 Praise Him, all you shining stars
 Praise Him, you highest Heavens & you waters above the skies
 Let them praise the name of the Lord for he commanded and they were created.
 Angel of God, my guardian dear
 To whom is love commits me here
 Ever this day be at my side
 To light & guard be at my side
 To light and guard, to rule and guide
 Opening Prayer
 God of all truth, I bring my whole self to you just as I am. Help me to focus my mind on you today. Turn the thoughts of truth with our angels. Open my eyes to see you. Open my heart to receive your Word. Open my hand to accept whatever you give. Draw close to me Lord as I draw close to you.
 Still your heart, slow your breathing, with your angels inhale slowly and deeply exhale slowly & deeply. Exhale slowly & fully. Try to focus your mind with your angels. Try to focus your mind on the present moment. Sit in still silence.
 O Lord help us to be masters of ourselves that we may be servants with our angels, invites us to be transformed into his image.
 We are most like angels when we stand ready to serve the good inside of us.
 Reach out to someone need. Some day they may call you angel



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Jackson Gagne
4 Grace Heald
17 Mary Hartman, Majuch Abui
18 Brigit Reyes (Our Little Rose)
19 Shirley Barratt
25 Eadoin Murphy
27 Alex Longe



In New Life

Dec 5 **Jeffrey Williams**
Dec 9 **G. Mary Gladden**
Dec 18 **James L. McDonald**
 May they rest in peace & rise in glory



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
38 Grand Ave, Swanton, VT 05488
Office 868-7185

Website: holytrinityswanton.org
The Rev. Kathleen Schotto
rector@holytrinityswanton.org
301 848-6069

Admin Asst: **Kiley Boutah,**
office@holytrinityswanton.org

Bookkeeper: **Lisa Way**

bookkeeper@holytrinityswanton.org
Organist: **Kay Benedict**

Facilities Mgr: **George Plante 868-7185**
Cleaning Services: **Jill Walsh**
AV/Tech: **Lincoln Buczkowski**