



# Trinity Matters

## *Epiphany to Lent*

### *February, 2018*

#### **THE ANNUAL MEETING OF TRINITY PARISH**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO WERE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 21**

Officers of the Vestry: One Year Terms

**Catherine Foster**, Senior Warden  
**Carolann Tebbetts**, Junior Warden  
**Linda Jackson**, Clerk  
**Jeff Kalb**, Treasurer

Vestry: Three Year Terms

**Ron Alarie**  
**Judy Gramstorff**

Convention Delegates at Large: One Year – Jeff Kalb, Craig McDonough

Convention Delegate from the Vestry: One Year – Catherine Foster

Convention Alternate from the Vestry: One Year – Carolann Tebbetts

**With thanks to those retiring from the Vestry:**

Pam Marshall, Beth Medlinskas, Moira Miller

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#### **FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN**

Hi everyone –

I hope you were able to come to Annual Meeting on January 21. If not, please pick up a copy of the Annual Report in the Narthex or let us know if we can get a copy to you electronically. It's full of our achievements in 2017 and our plans for 2018.

There were a few things I mentioned in my presentation at the meeting which I'd like to note:

- 1 – We need a Webmaster to pull together and monitor our social media presence.
- 2 - We need to work together to find ways to draw in volunteers to help with our projects and ministries.
- 3 – And – We need to have a party, to have some fun together and enjoy each other's company

I also want to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Vestry members Moira Miller, Beth Medlinskas and Pam Marshall for their service to the Parish the past several years. Their hours of work on behalf of Trinity were priceless. I also want to congratulate our two newest Vestry members, Judy Gramstroff and Ron Alarie, on their election to the Vestry. Thank you for accepting this call to serve!

Stay well. Pax – *Catherine Foster*, Senior Warden

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## LENT

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

*Book of Common Prayer, p. 264*

Our Book of Common Prayer offers a poignant invitation to the Season of Lent offering every member of the Church something to help move them closer to God and one another. All too often in my youth, Lent was a time to “give something up.” I assumed that giving something up would help me somehow. I never was sure of the rewards of denial and sacrifice. In my twenties I had had enough personal relationships that I realized that every relationship requires some give and take, some sacrifice and celebration. In very healthy love relationships, the dynamics of give and take move people closer together as each person seeks to move her or his ego needs to one side and allow the other to reside in the created space. And in that place of meeting, one finds joy.

Because God comes to us in the Person of Jesus, God offers us the opportunity of a personal relationship with God. Many of the dynamics of human interaction apply to one's God-human interaction. One can nurture an existing relationship. One can explore the other. One can enjoy (find joy) in the space set aside for the other. Even though the Church encourages her people to nurture one's relationship with God throughout the year, she offers the Season of Lent for us to be more intentional and to joy in support of others on ones' Christian journey.

The Trinity community offers some resources for your Lenten journey. The first is an intentional beginning of Lent by attending our **Ash Wednesday liturgy** on February 14 at 6:00PM. The liturgy helpfully sets the tone and direction for the season. If you prefer a daytime service, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church offers a service with Imposition of Ashes at noon.

Mutual Ministries will offer **Soup Suppers** on Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 21 at 6PM. The first supper will be at Trinity. We will have more information in the next weekly Trinity Matters.

For those who would like to engage in a regular time of prayer, meditation and reflection, our diocese offers a **Lenten book from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist** (SSJE) entitled “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John.” Bishop Fisher's introduction says, “John's Gospel will, undoubtedly, provoke deep thoughts and

wonderful questions. I pray you welcome them both. Lent means slow and silent spiritual growth—whatever your practice. Where the mind wanders is often where the heart needs to go.” SSJE offers daily videos by Brothers. In a short video each day, delivered to your computer inbox, an SSJE Brother comments on a verse from the Gospel of John or First Epistle of John, sharing something of what this verse means to him and suggesting ways in which you might pray with it. I am intrigued with this and look forward to participating. And I encourage your participation. See the display in the narthex for a signup sheet and texts.

**Fr. Ron**

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2018

Beginning Sunday, February 11, Trinity Parish will offer Confirmation preparation for those 15 years and older. We will meet in the Lower Hall following worship each Sunday. Each class will last about ninety minutes. Father Crocker will be the instructor for the classes.

Classes will use a curriculum developed by the clergy and Director of Family Ministries at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Oakland, CA called *Confirm not Conform*. *Confirm not Conform* encourages youth to find the bedrock of their faith—the rock that will be a firm foundation throughout their lives. *Confirm not Conform* offers a strong Anglican ethos, deeply exploring Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. We encourage all who are interested in classes to use the signup sheet on the table in the narthex, call the church office, or Father Crocker.

## EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Applications for the **Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants** are now available and can be obtained by writing the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants, 37 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01103, or from the Diocesan website ([www.diocesewma.org](http://www.diocesewma.org)).

***Deadline for receipt of completed applications is March 1, 2018.***

The **Greater Worcester Community Foundation** is now accepting applications for 2018 college scholarships. Awards range from \$300 to \$5,000 and a student may receive more than one award. High school seniors who live in Worcester County and plan to attend college in the fall are eligible.

Applications are available on line at [www.greaterworcester.org](http://www.greaterworcester.org) and completed applications are due by Monday, March 5.

## A WORD FROM OUR BISHOP

My brother bishop in Maine has suggested several adaptations to Holy Communion during the height of flu season. I agree with these precautions and invite you to consider making these changes for the next few weeks....

**+Doug**

Please consider the following:

Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex Wash your hands before eating at coffee hour. Rather than shaking hands, please consider passing the Peace with gestures and nods. The safest approach to communion is to receive the bread only. Communion in one kind, as it's known, is complete communion. We will refrain from intinction. Intinction brings fingers into the common cup and is the most likely way for flu bugs to spread. A sip from the common cup is much less likely to spread flu. Intinction makes you **more** likely, not less likely, to spread or catch someone else's cold or flu.

## VESTRY CORNER

**The Trinity Vestry met on Thursday, January 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM. Here are highlights of the meeting:**

Facilities Ministry members Ron Alarie and Allyn Taylor were asked to attend to report on plans for maintenance and repair of our buildings.

**Immediate repairs which were approved or completed:**

- a. Church Hall furnace malfunction in January was due to a breakdown of the control relay board, which prevented the heat from going on.
- b. Downstairs ladies' room repairs to toilets and plumbing work under the toilets.
- c. Heating unit in main stairwell needs repairs. Facilities team will advise us of estimate.

**Plans for 2018:**

- a. Exterior repairs include wood repair, substantial exterior painting, doors, areas under peak, siding on external 'temporary' wall. Most of this work will need outside contractors. Facilities team has received 4 estimates for repairs and has narrowed the decision to 2 companies. Estimates being considered are in the 12-13,000 range and could possibly go higher once scope of the project is determined. They will discuss with the two finalists and make recommendation at the February meeting.
- b. Interior repairs include new light fixtures to replace florescent lights in church hall. This can be handled by volunteers.
- c. Parking lot needs crack filling and sealing.

**Christmas Tree Sales** – Allyn was asked to report on results of the Christmas Tree Sale. We had a starting inventory of 314 trees, sold 312 trees, profit was in the area of \$9500, and we donated remainders to Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services. Sale was finished December 17. Aside from the difficulty finding volunteers, the sale went smoothly and was a success.

**Annual Meeting** –January 21 – Special reports for the meeting were assigned. Moira Miller reported on the work of the Nominating committee

**Priest in Charge Report:** Fr Ron Crocker

- a. Confirmation Classes - Will be using 'Confirm Not Conform' curriculum. Teen participants have been identified and will be invited to attend preliminary meeting in February.
- b. Mutual Ministry: Advent/ Christmas Season debrief – Fr. Ron met with Pastor Andrew. Overall our shared services were well received with good energy due to number of participants. Concern with both parishes that the 6 week schedule may have been too long. Plans for Lent are in process for Ash Wednesday and Soup Suppers.
- c. "*Marks of Congregational Vitality*" – Discussed parish spiritual vitality and ways to go outside ourselves. Will plan to discuss topics at the Annual Meeting.

**Treasurer Report:** Jeff Kalb

- a. Final 2017 Financial Statement was presented and received. Report was produced on the old accounting system. We ended the year with a surplus.
- b. Reviewed final version of the 2018 budget which will be presented to the Annual Meeting. Motion to accept the 2018 budget showing \$158,300 income and \$156,567 was made, moved and discussed. Vote taken and budget was approved.

Respectfully submitted, *Catherine Foster*

## TRINITY EVENTS, February 2018

### Friday, February 2 – The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

#### Sunday, February 4 – Coins for IHN

9:15 am Fellowship Begins  
9:50 am Call to Worship and Organ Prelude  
10 am Holy Eucharist

#### Thursday, February 8

6:30 pm Vestry Meeting, Common Room  
Members of Trinity are always welcome to attend vestry meetings.

#### Sunday, February 11

9:15 am Fellowship Begins  
9:50 am Call to Worship and Organ Prelude  
10 am Holy Eucharist – Confirmation Class follows in the Lower Hall

#### Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday- The Parish Office is Closed Today

Noon Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at Mt. Olivet  
7 pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at Trinity  
A detailed Lenten schedule will be available soon.

#### Sunday, February 18

9:15 am Fellowship Begins  
9:50 am Call to Worship and Organ Prelude  
10 am Holy Eucharist – Confirmation Class follows in the Lower Hall

#### Monday, February 19 – The Parish Office is Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day

#### Tuesday, February 20

10 am Trinity Women, Common Room

#### Wednesday, February 21-Ember Day

6 pm First Lenten Soup Supper – At Trinity

#### Friday, February 23 – Ember Day

#### Saturday, February 24 – St. Matthias/Ember Day

9 am-3 pm Vestry Retreat, St. Francis, Holden

#### Sunday, February 25

9:15 am Fellowship Begins  
9:50 am Call to Worship and Organ Prelude  
10 am Holy Eucharist – Confirmation Class follows in the Lower Hall

**Note:** Opportunities for Bible Study/Bible Sharing continue this month: Tuesdays in the Common Room at Trinity with Pastor Nancy at 7 pm – 2 Corinthians, through February 13. Ongoing at 7:12 on Thursday evenings, all are welcome to join in Bible Sharing at Mt. Olivet 34 Prospect Street, Shrewsbury.

**THIS MONTH – HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

Dan Morgado	2/1
Fr. Ron	2/4
Matt Landry	2/11
Nancy Kelly	2/12
Stephen Landry	2/12
Sherry Alarie	2/13
Liz Witkowski	2/21
Pam Thompson	2/23
Matthew Jarrell	2/26

**And Happy Anniversary TO:**

Bart & Sandy Polhemus	2/12/2000
Tom & Marilyn O’Hara	2/16/1986
Michael & Marianne Tompkins	2/22/1958



**Please inform the parish office if any birthday or anniversary information needs correction – or if your special dates need to be added.**

**IN OUR PARISH FAMILY**

**Congratulations!:** *Nicholas Tebbetts*, oldest son of **Gary and Carolann Tebbetts**, and Charlie O’Donnell were married on December 30 in a beautiful ceremony in Grafton – though record cold derailed plans for pictures on Grafton Common. Nick and Charlie have been together for 3 years and purchased a home in Auburn last summer.

**On the Move:** *Elaine Brouillette* has moved from Worcester to Shrewsbury Towers, 36 North Quinsigamond Avenue, Apt. 714, Shrewsbury. *Hazel Blackett* continues to live at 70 Briarwood Circle, Worcester, 01606 – but has moved to Room 234. Phone numbers remain the same.



*Flowers for the Trinity Altar*

The Flower Calendar for 2017 is on the table in the narthex and at this writing, there are MANY open dates. Please help fill those in with your intentions of remembrance or thanksgiving. Altar flowers are still just \$35 for a Sunday. Please make your check payable to Trinity Episcopal Church and note Altar Flowers in the memo section. Thank you. Your donations of altar flowers help beautify our weekly worship!

**DON’T MISS THIS SPECIAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY**

**HELP TACKLE HUNGER!!** Celebrate Super Bowl Sunday by being part of the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, now through February 4. It’s easy - join with Wellspring which is a registered participant of this initiative, and bring cans (or packets) of soup to church. Everything donated will benefit the St. Anne’s Food Pantry. Visit [SOUPERBOWL.ORG](http://SOUPERBOWL.ORG) for more information.



**Thank you for Serving in February**  
*Services are at 10 am unless noted otherwise.*

DATE/TIME	Lector(s)	EM	Hospitality	Acolytes	Altar Guild
February 4	Elaine Brouillette Linda Taylor	Leigh O'Connor	Team 1	Evan Jarrell Cameron Lewis	Leigh O'Connor
February 11	Hal Marshall Diane Caron	Allyn Taylor	Team 2	Jake Morin Victoria Marshall	Sherry Alarie Linda Jackson
February 14 Ash Wednesday 7 pm	Robert Krey Judy Pugliese	Catherine Foster		TBA	Linda Taylor
February 18	Dina Nichols Marianne Tompkins	Jeff Kalb	Team 3	Mark & Sam O'Connor	Linda Taylor
February 25	Linda Taylor Hal Marshall	Ron Alarie	Team 4	Evan Jarrell Cameron Lewis	Leigh O'Connor

*\* Schedules updated as of January 29, 2018*

**Note:** Schedules are distributed quarterly, in advance of serving dates; these schedules also appear (without contact information) on the Trinity website - [www.trinityshrewsbury.org](http://www.trinityshrewsbury.org). Schedules month to month, (see above) appear in the newsletter. Reminders/updates are sent by e-mail a couple of days prior to every Sunday as part of the weekly Trinity E-Update. And if you ever have a question about when you are scheduled to serve, please contact the parish office!

**Trinity Matters** –The monthly newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church  
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 Website: [www.trinityshrewsbury.org](http://www.trinityshrewsbury.org)

**Worship with us at 10 am on Sundays**  
**Fellowship begins at 9:15 am**  
**Parish Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am-1:30 pm**