

The Tidings

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD



Stewardship

*Let everything that breathes
praise the Lord!*

Psalm 150 is our stewardship

theme this year – a closing hymn of praise reminding us of giving thanks and praise for everything in our lives.

The word Steward most likely comes from two old English words “Sty Warden” the person that cared for someone’s pigs. A Steward is not the owner but a trusted authority with responsibilities and one that cares for the possession of the owner both for the benefit of the owner and for the benefit of other people.

Let us remember and celebrate that the Lord is the Creator of everything that is. 100% of everything we have comes from God! To be God’s steward is an honor and a privilege like nothing else!

We need to ask ourselves how we respond to this honor and goodness? Do we remember to reflect our appreciation through giving and praise? God has given us stewardship to grow in our relationship with Him through our talents, time, and finances. Please let us join together in discipleship and praise!

Commitment Sunday will be October 18, when all of us will be invited to make our Estimates of Giving for the coming year. Please consider prayerfully how you can take a “step up” in giving for the next year.

Psalm 150, verse 1 – 6

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his
mighty heavens

Praise him for his act of power; praise him for his
surpassing greatness
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise
him with the harp and lyre,
Praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise
him with the strings and flute,
Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him
with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

Stewardship Team

Worship Schedule

Our Contemporary Worship will be Sundays at 8:30am and our Traditional Worship will be at 11:00am with GIFT occurring the second Sunday of every month (worship will be held at 9:30am on GIFT Sundays). Don’t forget our Midweek Worship on **Wednesdays at 6:00pm!** Worship Schedule for October is as follows:

Sunday, October 4:

8:30am Contemporary Worship

(9:45am Fellowship)

11:00am Traditional Worship

Sunday, October 11: GIFT

9:30am Combined Worship for GIFT Sunday

(10:15am Fellowship)

Followed by GIFT Gathering

Sunday, October 18: Commitment Sunday

8:30am Contemporary Worship

(9:45am Fellowship)

11:00am Traditional Worship

Sunday, October 25: Reformation & Confirmation

9:30am Combined Worship

(10:15am Fellowship)

President's Article

What is God up to?

What is God up to? There is no doubt the news that pastor is leaving us so suddenly is a blow, a major blow to our established and fledgling ministries - some still in their infancy and vulnerable - and to our membership - especially our newest, youngest members.

Did we pick the right leader 3 1/2 years ago? Yes. Did he pick the right church? Yes. Did we move too fast? Yes. Did we move too slowly? Yes. Did we make mistakes? Yes. Did he make mistakes? Yes.

Does a heavier burden fall on all of us? Yes, especially Meghan and Jen.

Was there an event that brought this to be? No. Was there a warning? No.

Do we have a right to be angry and confused? I think we do.

What is God up to? I don't know. It may have more to do with a church in Galveston TX than one in Newington NH. It doesn't feel right on this end. But it may have everything to do with our church. God may have needed to get our attention to broaden our mission and strengthen our resolve as a force for good in our community and across the world. We won't know. We are called to trust God and have faith.

With God's help your council will work to dissect the data, make sense of it and lay out a plan for the future. Please prayerfully consider helping us.

Are we going to have to work harder and be more involved? We are. Are we going to lose people? I hope not. And are we going to grow from this and be a stronger church? Have faith.

In faith

Rob Leatherbee

Council President

Moving Forward



Feeling Gods Presence

On Sunday Nov 15 and Sunday Dec 6 between services, members of your Council will lead congregational conversations in small groups with interested members about where we have been and where we are going. What is God up to here at Holy Trinity? Please plan to attend and come prepared to share your joys and concerns. Help us feel Gods presence at Holy Trinity as we make the decisions we must to continue Gods work with our hands

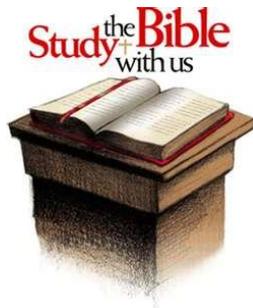
Faith Formation Team

Our next GIFT Gathering is Sunday, October 11th following our 9:30am worship service and Friday October 16th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. We have a great event planned for you that includes time together, faithful conversation over rowdy games of Jenga, and learning about the Christian life as we dive into the story of the wise and foolish builders and the foundations upon which they built their homes and lives. Our meal for both gatherings will be deli sandwiches and fruit. Gluten-free options will be available. Sign up to join us for GIFT at the GIFT Gathering Information Board in the Gathering Area. Our schedule for the Sunday Gathering is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10:30 – 11:00 | All-Ages Jenga and Conversation |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Lunch |
| 11:35 – 12:20 | In-Depth Learning in Age Groups |
| 12:25 – 12:45 | Taking Faith Home Ideas & Sending Worship |

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

All are welcome to join in the study of the Gospel of John for the fall term. Classes typically run from 9:30am to 11:00am.



Pastor's Article

Why?

By now you have most likely heard the news that I have accepted another call and will be leaving Holy Trinity. This will be my last Tidings article as my last Sunday will be October 25th. And, you may have questions about my departure. My ministry in your midst will be a total of about 3 ½ years. Now, realize that this is longer than Jesus' public ministry, but in so many ways it seems short.

My decision is one that came through much time in prayer and discernment. And, I truly believe that it is time for my call to end here and to begin in Galveston. But again why? A bright young lady in our congregation asked that very pointed question to me on September 20th. She asked, "Why would God call you away from us?" And the answer is hard for us all to grasp. We sometimes do not know the answer to "why" – except that we do know it is right. My answer to the question of how long I will be in a place is simple – as long as I sense God is calling me to serve there. With that in mind, that is why I am now departing.

And, then there is another question- "why will we be without a pastor again?" Sometimes we try to answer such questions by pointing fingers or trying to blame someone. But such responses never yield

truth nor blessing. The answer is found however in seeing that God has faithfully cared for Holy Trinity and will continue to do just that. The "why" is answered by the reality that God is with us, and that in God being present and active, God is up to something in this time of transition and uncertainty. This time without a pastor is a time of new possibility and new hopes- a time to discern the direction of the Holy Spirit.

I rejoice in the time we have had together. God indeed allowed us to get to know each other and to explore new ways of being church together. Together we looked at the massive cultural shift our world is undergoing and how the church must re-adapt for the new environment in which ministry now happens. And we simply shared the joy of life together. For the times we have shared, I am thankful. And though our paths will go different directions now, the Lord is still the Lord of us all.

Corinne and I pray God's blessings upon you. We look forward to hearing of what God is doing in and through Holy Trinity and how God's kingdom is moving through this wonderful congregation into the seacoast and the world.

Peace in Christ our Lord,

Reverend Richard A. Rhoades

Sarah Cooley's retirement: On Sunday, December 1, between services we will be thanking Sarah for her 28 years of dedicated service as Holy Trinity's custodian. Each week she has ensured that our building is cleaned and ready for use, not only by us, but many outside groups. We appreciate her faithful service.



J.O.Y. GROUP

It's time for a wonderful fall trip to Camp Calumet on Lake Ossipee. The date is

October 13th which is a week earlier than our usual meeting day which was selected in order to get the best possible view of fall foliage. There will be a van to take us to Calumet that will leave from the church at 9:45am, and bring us back to the church at 4:30pm. Please make sure you sign up on the Kiosk so we know how many people will be attending. Lunch will be served at Calumet and will cost \$11.00.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will continue their monthly breakfast on the first Saturday of the month at 7:30am. Men of all ages are invited to attend!



Minister to Families and Youth

Let's talk about earthquakes. As many of you know, before we came to New Hampshire, Eric and I lived in California, and we had the opportunity to learn about earthquakes firsthand. The biggest tremor we ever felt was in the evening while we were playing a board game. I remember that it seemed like the noise – a huge crashing sound – came a split second before our chairs started sliding around underneath us and our board game pieces were scattered. The doors to our kitchen cabinets flew open, and a picture frame or two even fell off the wall! The funny part is that on the Richter Scale, this wasn't even a significant earthquake.

The "next big one" is a hot topic of conversation in California, and, in an effort to predict what might be coming, people will wrinkle their noses and remark periodically, "Uh oh! This is earthquake weather." The hard part about earthquakes is that no one knows when they're coming. They catch us completely off guard, and there's no possible way

to have everyone and everything we care about nailed down. There are certainly moments in life that feel like earthquakes. There are moments when we know the ground beneath our feet has moved – perhaps the tremors were even big enough to shake our surroundings and things are in different places than they were before. These moments in life can be caused by things we are looking forward to such as getting married, having a baby (talk about an earthquake!) or even retiring. They can also be because of painful things such as losing a loved one, the end of a relationship, job loss, or health concerns. We experience these moments as individuals, as families, as a nation and as faith communities.

Given the news that our pastor has resigned and is taking another call to a church in Galveston, Texas, perhaps it is fitting – I would even say a God-thing – that our Faith Formation Team has chosen to explore the story of "The Wise and Foolish Builders" from Matthew 7 at our next GIFT Gathering. When the ground beneath our feet shakes – or as in the story of the wise man who built his house upon the rock – whether the rains are coming or the sun is shining, we remember that we have a solid, unshakeable foundation in Christ Jesus. Our lives and our future are secure in this promise of God. On Sunday October 11th or Friday October 16th, our faith community will celebrate this unshakeable promise as we explore what it looks like for us to live knowing that our lives are founded on Christ, our rock. We hope you will join us!

Peace be with you friends,
Meghan

Visitation Ministry



Visitation
Ministry

The Holy Spirit has graciously bestowed upon each one of us unique spiritual gifts. If you have the gift of compassion, mercy, or

helping, then please consider being one of our visitors. You might find it difficult to believe that by making a simple visit you can transform a person's day from just another day, to a day of joy. This is exactly what often happens when one makes a visit to a shut-in.

The Visitation Ministry is a program which is a part of the Caring Ministry. It was designed to help those who are unable to get out on a regular basis, to know that we, at Holy Trinity, care for them and that they are not forgotten.

We never know when we will be adding new people to our list so it would be nice to have people who are interested and waiting to make a visit. If you have not been a visitor before, please prayerfully consider giving it a try. To those who have taken the time to make a visit, THANK YOU! If you would like more information, please call Jill Larson

Social Ministry

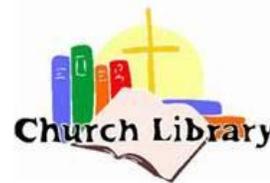
There is an opportunity for an exciting new local outreach! This is a possibility for HTELC to start a new project (The Baby Closet) and the Social Ministry needs your feedback.

First a little history about the Baby Closet. The program started at the Hampton 1st Congregational Church 20 years ago. The Hampton church provides diapers and baby wipes to parents who are in need of a little extra help. The goal is not to supply the parents with the diapers and wipes, but instead to provide some supplies to get you through a tight spot. Over the 20 years the Hampton Project has expanded to include infant clothes, toys and some baby furniture. The baby closet is open for a few hours each week. Families are generally referred by local social services.

This spring the Hampton Church approached Holy Trinity to ask if we would consider operating a similar program to serve families in our area because they have been receiving requests from the Portsmouth area.

The ideal would be to start a similar project at Holy Trinity to address the local need. We would have the huge benefit of being able to use the successful "Hampton Baby Closet" format.

The diapers and baby wipes are purchased with donations or donated directly. Volunteers repackage the diapers into bags in small lots. Size 1 and 2 are 22 diapers to a bag. Size 3 and 4 are 20 diapers to a bag and size 5 is 15 diapers to a bag. The disposable wipes are small size packages. The "Hampton Baby Closet" is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 - 12 and staffed by volunteers. Originally they were open just 2 days a week. Other volunteers help out by packaging the diapers, washing baby clothes, cleaning toys, etc.



If you are interested or would like to ask questions, please email Elinor Young. The project has a lot of potential for us to work with area churches and serve a part of our community that we would not normally see. The Hampton Church is sharing their procedures and experience to allow us to get a good start. There is also an opportunity to go to Hampton 1st Congregational Church to watch and help on a day the Baby Closet is open.

Thank You!

Elinor Young for the Social Ministry team



OPERATION BLESSING

Operation Blessings needs: boxes of macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, and condiments such as mayonnaise, mustard and ketchup. Thank you!
Lois

Dover Friendly Kitchen

Holy Trinity serves at the Dover Friendly Kitchen at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Dover on the **4th Tuesday of every month**. If you would like to bake cookies or serve, please contact Bonnie Sanders or Jill Schock. All are Welcome!

Library News

Library News--Displays of books and movies are new for the fall season. Plans are in the works for new leadership in 2016. Stay tuned and keep reading. Barbara Galle

END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

Through this program, food is packaged in "backpacks" for students in schools who may experience hunger between the free lunch they receive in school on Friday afternoon and the free breakfast they receive in school on Monday morning. The chapter of E68HH that Holy Trinity is affiliated with serves students in the Portsmouth area. Our chapter packs 100+ bags per week and the organization as a whole packs over 700 bags per week. Many hands make light work, and this program is a great way to work alongside other church members and serve our community.



Holy Trinity participates by packing "backpacks" on Thursdays about every six weeks. We pack at the United Methodist Church in Portsmouth. The work is fairly easy and quick (we're usually done within one hour of time). If you'd like to participate, please contact Nicholas or Mariah Kirsch



Property Team

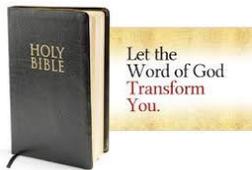
You will see some new things around the property. First, the parking lot lights, steeple lighting, and the yard light on the exit road end

of the building have all been upgraded to LED (light emitting diodes) and we expect to save significant energy cost as well as periodic costs for bulb and other maintenance. I checked out the lighting on a recent dark and rainy night and they look great. I hope you all like them. Second, you will see some new heating system piping work in progress. At this point the new piping is completely exposed and a bit unsightly. We will box in the exposed piping, and repair plaster and such when the work is completed and tested for leaks. This work is not expected to impact our heating system needs as we move into the heating season.

Several of you have asked me about the carpets and the need to have them cleaned. I plan to have this work done soon and have been waiting for the heating system work to complete. If it seems prudent to do this sooner, I will do so. I also am aware that we have several burned-out bulbs in the overhead areas of the Sanctuary. We are currently planning to change all of the bulbs on Saturday, October 10th. At this point I plan to have all the spots/floods changed to LED bulbs. I have recently become aware of an option that may also allow us to change all 33 of the 150 watt halogen bulbs in the black can-like fixtures to LED bulbs. If this option proves workable, we will do so. These changes will save some energy cost, but the primary reason for making the change is to significantly reduce the frequency at which we need to service the bulbs in the high overhead areas. At the same time we will have the opportunity to attack some of the more obvious dust in the overhead (e.g., the speakers) and possibly to test the four heat sensors that have not

been tested in years, if at all. All of this high work will require a lift. Lift rental can be expensive and most of us have no training or experience in operating a lift. But, as is said, God will provide! A member of our HTELC family, Mike Cresta, has generously offered to provide the lift and to operate it for us. That means Mike will become a member of what I call the "Order of The Fly", those folks who have been to the high overhead areas of the Sanctuary. It is a rather exclusive club! We need some help that day to move chairs, operate light switches, and that sort of thing to allow Mike to move his lift from place-to-place as needed. I anticipate needing perhaps 4-6 helpers that day. We will get started about 8:00am and hopefully have all the work done by the end of the day. If you would like to help, contact me or the Church Office. David Mercer, Property Team Leader"

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)

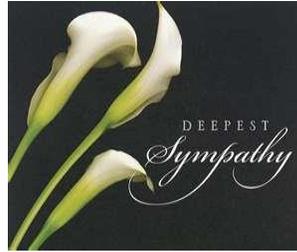


Women's Evening Bible Study

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) is an in-depth,

interdenominational Bible class for people of all ages and backgrounds. (The Portsmouth, NH Satellite class is a women's study for all women 18 and older.) This year we will study Revelation as we 'Watch the Lamb, and Walk in Victory.' Middle Street Baptist Church at 18 Court Street Portsmouth, NH will host our women's study this year on Thursday evenings from 6:45-8:30pm. We meet for 30 weeks, September to May. (No class 11/26, 12/24, 12/31, 4/21). To register: Please arrive early, registration will be promptly at 6:15pm. You are welcome to join at any time throughout the year! Whether you're a beginner or more advanced Bible student, you'll find the rewards of the study will match your personal commitment. For more information about BSF, visit their website at www.bsfindernational.org or if you have any questions, contact *Sharon Stone*

Christian Sympathy:



To Cecil & June Slipp upon the death of their son, Steve Slipp on Sunday, September 20th, 2015.

To Corinne Rhoades upon the death of her brother, David Priebe, on September 17, 2015 in MN.

Tables of 8



This popular Adult Fellowship event at Holy Trinity is a great way to get to know others from your Holy Trinity family. Those who sign up will enjoy four meals together over the next year. Each group decides the meals...potluck, theme menus, picnic, eat out, etc. Please see the Kiosk in the Gathering Area for further information and to sign up.

September Worship Attendance

9/2/15	17(midweek)
9/6/15	132
9/9/15	19 (midweek)
9/13/15	186
9/16/15	19 (midweek)
9/20/15	173
9/23/15	19 (midweek)

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30am Thurs Group 6:45pm BSF	2 7:30pm AA	3 8:30-10:30am AA 7:30am Men's Bfast
4 <i>Visitation Sunday</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship 11am Worship 2:00pm Imanuel	5 6pm Sounds of Seacoast	6 5pm Church Council 6-7pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Midwk Worship	8 8:30am Thurs Group 6:45pm BSF	9 7:30pm AA	10 8:30-10:30am AA
11 9:30 am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am GIFT Gathering 2:00pm Imanuel	12 6pm Sounds of Seacoast	13 6-7pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am JOY Group 6pm Midwk Worship	15 8:30am Thurs Group 6:45pm BSF	16 6-8pm GIFT Gathering 7:30pm AA	17 8:30-10:30am AA
18 <i>Commitment Sunday</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship 11am Worship 2:00pm Imanuel BP Clinic	19 6pm Sounds of Seacoast	20 6-7pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal	21 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Midwk Worship	22 8:30am Thurs Group 6:45pm BSF	23 7:30pm AA	24 8:30-10:30am AA
25 <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Fellowship 2:00pm Imanuel 4:30pm Confirmation	26 6pm Sounds of Seacoast	27 6-7pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 7-8pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm Dover Friendly Kitchen	28 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Midwk Worship	29 8:30am Thurs Group 6:45pm BSF	30 7:30pm AA	31 8:30-10:30am AA Happy Halloween!

Assistant Treasurer: Barry Philbrick – Disbursement and financial reports.
Financial Secretary: Nancy Johnson – Receipts and individual member giving reports.
Property: David Mercer – Maintenance and improvement of the church property.
Worship & Music: Leslie-Lynne Darling – Arrangement of worship service and associated music
Caring Ministry: Judy Evans & Sue Althof – Promote the care and wellbeing of members and their families.
Social Ministry: Elinor Young – Response to human needs outside of the congregation.
Adult Fellowship: Tom & Michelle Bernth– Care and fellowship activities for members.
Welcoming: Linda Edwards & Ed Mallon– Christian witness and addition of new members.
Faith Formation Team: Joe & Sue Reny – Intergenerational gatherings for our congregation.
Visitation Ministry: Jill Larson – Outreach program for those who can't regularly attend worship.
Stewardship: Russ Hilliard – Coordinate the spirit of giving & stewardship campaign.
Pastor: Rev. Richard A. Rhoades
Minister to Families & Youth: Meghan Richter
Office and Communications Coordinator: Jennifer Kunz – Newsletters, bulletins, and Church Office.
Bishops: Rev. James Hazelwood – New England Synod.
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Eaton – ELCA Presiding.

Church Council Members –

President: Rob Leatherbee
Vice President: Martha Belanger
Treasurer: Dan Scammon
Secretary: Vacant
Council at Large: Scott Carson, Nancy Hansen, Jerry Schock
Past President: Don Sweet

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