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# HOLY HAPPENINGS

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Volume 24 Issue 4

May 2016

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## NEW BEGINNING

It now seems like a century ago when I first began my ministry here at The Church of the Holy Nativity and the theme we used to announce my ministry was “New Beginnings.” Well here we are eleven years later and it still seems that there is something new which has come along to keep us all enthused and invigorated. Take this past year for example (going back through the last ten would be a “new” task in itself), most recently we have celebrated our 100th year anniversary, something “new” for everyone including the clergy. We celebrated with our “new” bishop Alan Gates who was our celebrant and preacher. For the first time in the history of our parish something “new” occurred on Christmas and Easter; we had to turn the air conditioning on during the Christmas Eve service and the heat on for Easter. We have seen many, many “new” faces. We have all experienced the old giving way to the “new” in the varied and many ministries here at the parish so that those who have performed their duties to the Lord may now relax and pass the mantle to a new generation of Holy Nativityites.

However, things becoming “new” also mean things change and sometime change can be become if not difficult but downright painful. It is hard to see dedicated people either pass (Enid Hayes



### CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### Sunday

*Holy Eucharist - 8 & 10 a.m.*

*Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.*

#### NURSERY AVAILABLE

*9:30 - 11:30 a.m.*

#### OFFICE HOURS

*Mon. thru Fri. - 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

Parish Office 781-335-2030

Rector 781-974-7392

E- Mail:

[office@holynativityweymouth.org](mailto:office@holynativityweymouth.org)

WEBSITE:

[www.holynativityweymouth.org](http://www.holynativityweymouth.org)

The Rev. Harold G. Birkenhead, Rector

The Rev. Brad Hultman, Asst. Priest

Casey Hannan, Organist & Choirmaster

Lizzi Campbell, Secretary

Bob Thomas, Sexton

Brian Smith, Warden

Steve Williams, Warden

in February) or those who move away either temporarily or permanently.

During my tenure here I have had the opportunity to have three wonderful and very talented secretaries. Many of us remember Penney Gustafson who served here for a number of year under Father Dan and then for me until her untimely death as well as Jane Lyons who was not only secretary but a member of our parish. So as you can see there have a few “new beginnings” in the position of secretary. The best I can say about the position is when one asks me who is in charge of the church I usually respond; “God, but you’d better check with the secretary first.”

Most recently, our present secretary Lizzi Campbell has informed us that things have changed in her life, good things in fact mind you, the boys Duncan and Gareth are healthy and doing well in school. Steve however has gotten a promotion which will require more demands of him which means Lizzi will be needed more readily at home. So, Lizzi has submitted her resignation, which I most sadly and grudgingly accepted. Lizzi will begin a “new” venture (cont’d pg 5)

**MUSIC**

**&**

**THE MILITARY**

May 21, 2016 - 4 p.m.

Richard Travers is a retired music educator who taught for 35 years.

This program examines the use of music and its important role in the military, not just simply for ‘therapeutic’ reasons or marching. From sunrise to sunset, from the battlefield to the final resting place. Mr. Travers will introduce to you how music is front and center in all branches of the military. Free

This program will be brought to you in part by the Weymouth Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the MA Cultural Council a state agency.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

The Sunday school children will host coffee hour in May one last time this school year. We will be baking and preparing some goodies for all to share.

We will have class outside on Sunday, May 15th with a scavenger hunt – Where is God? This is a favorite activity of the children as we look for God and his beauty in the neighborhood.

Memorial Day weekend, Sunday May 29th, there will be no class.

Looking ahead to June – Our last class will be Sunday, June 5th where all of the Sunday school children will be recognized at the 10:00 service followed by a fun BBQ lunch!

**BIBLE STUDY**

Sundays through June 12, 2016

The Lenten study of mysticism has been redesigned so that its focus is primarily biblical with the addition of one supporting text - “The Power of Now” by Eckhart Tolle.

The classes will be held on Sundays beginning at 11:40 am and run until 12:30 pm. Each session will begin with 10 minutes of meditation followed by a discussion on the book “The Power of Now” and conclude with a short discussion of scripture lessons that relate to the book. Scripture passages will be selected by those people attending the class and who found these readings relevant to “The Power of Now” and/or spiritually uplifting.

Anyone is welcome at this study. It is not necessary to have participated in the Lenten study to join this program. I have 9 copies of the book “The Power of Now”. If more copies are needed, they are easily obtained at Barnes & Noble.

As I said, anyone who wishes to attend this study group is welcome. If you have not done so already, please tell Fr. Brad you are planning to attend.

God bless,  
Fr. Brad

**WARDEN’S REPORT**

Spring is here! The winter of 2016 was certainly milder than last year’s unprecedented weather. However, we were reminded of how unpredictable the weather patterns in the Northeast are with a couple ‘last minute’ snow storms in April. Once again we look forward to the appearance of spring colors and the blooming of beautiful plants and flowers. With just some minor flooding in the school due to a tripped sump pump, we once again survived the winter unscathed. The incredible work of our parish last year in addressing maintenance and repair issues to our building has put our facility in a great position. As your wardens, we will continue to evaluate any maintenance and repair needs of the church.

Once again, we had a great Easter. We are blessed to have a wonderful choir, Lay Readers, Acolytes, Ushers and certainly a great Clergy team of Fr. Harry and Fr. Brad that put together a busy Holy Week schedule and Lenten program. Thanks to all for our beautiful Easter services that we all enjoyed. Attendance at both services was great, the celebration and music was wonderful.

We would like to thank Maryann Gurney and the Sunday School volunteers, as well as the children and everyone who participated in the book drive for the Pediatric Ward at South Shore Hospital. Many people donated cash, books, crayons, coloring books, and playing cards.

The Sunday school children walked to South Shore Hospital on Palm Sunday and delivered approximately 150 books along with the other items collected. They also collected food for the Weymouth Food Pantry and sent homemade cards to soldiers who are stationed overseas. Such great examples and important service for our children.

We’re looking forward to seeing you in Church. May God continue to bless you and your families.

Peace from your Wardens.

Brian Smith & Steve Williams

**STEWARDSHIP**

After the flurry of activity regarding our Commitment Drive at the end of last year, we would like to reflect a little on the theme for this year, “Abundant Joy—Overflowing Generosity”. As we stated in our November letter, this theme is based on verses 1 to 8 of 2 Corinthians Chapter 8. Some of our letter is worth repeating:

*Both for the individual and for the community, stewardship is a joyful act for the sake of God’s world. Generosity is not possible apart from our love of God and of His people. But with such love, generosity not only is possible but inevitable. Christian stewards seek the heart of God in faithfully, joyfully and gracefully managing all the gifts God has given. Giving is more than a responsibility—it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience—it is evidence of our faith. God has given us two*

*hands—one to receive with and the other to give with.*

And so we are urged to exercise our stewardship with joy, not only because of our gratitude for all of God’s blessings, but also for the joy of being with God in His actions on behalf of his creation and all of us. Let us rejoice that whatever our financial giving may be, our time and our talents give more opportunities to share what we have. Additional thoughts for meditation on God’s generosity to us:

*There are so many things we can be thankful for;*

*Just look around and see all the blessings of the Lord—*

*Everything we have in life is given from above*

*To sustain us and keep us and to share God’s precious love.*

*Blessings come in different ways and sometimes can be missed;*

*So thank the Lord who gives them, and for all that He is.*

In God’s Service,

Your Stewardship Team

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the **JUNE 2016** Holy Happenings will be **Thursday, May 12**. Articles may be submitted via snail mail, dropped off in the bin on the office door or sent to email [office@holynativityweymouth.org](mailto:office@holynativityweymouth.org). Thank you.

## FOOD FIRST SUNDAY

Food First Sunday will be **Sunday, May 1**. The pantry would appreciate peanut butter and jelly. Thank you.

## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Please sign up on the Coffee Hour sheet in the Asher-Stoddard Hall. If you have any questions, please call Ed Muller at 781-337-7165.

## Home Communion

If you or a relative are unable to get to church to celebrate the Eucharist at any time during the year, please call the office at 781.335.2030 to schedule a Home Communion with Fr. Harry or Fr. Brad. The visit will be arranged at your convenience, days or evenings.

## VESTRY

The next Vestry meeting will be **Wednesday, May 18, 2015** at 7:30 pm following a service of Compline at 7:00 pm.

## Tuesday Morning Eucharist and Luncheon

Did you miss Sunday's service? Are you hungry for the word of God? Would you enjoy relaxing during a Eucharist and then enjoy a light lunch and some great conversation? Then Holy Nativity offers you a wonderfully quiet but spiritual Eucharist followed by a light luncheon and conversation every Tuesday at 11:30 am. If you know someone who wishes to come along then remind them they don't have to be a church member or even an Episcopalian. Just come along and pray, be fed by the Lord and then enjoy a luncheon of fellowship and good cheer.

## AS A PARISH, WE PRAY FOR:

ABBY C.  
 ARLEEN & RICHARD BOYD  
 ASHLEY & MIA EISSANTI  
 ASHLEY SMITH  
 BILL GARRITY  
 BILL LUCIER  
 BILL MCFADDEN  
 BILLIE-JO ROGERS  
 DALE  
 DENISE  
 ELAINE  
 EWEN MCDONALD  
 FATHER STEVE  
 GERI  
 JACKIE SAMPSON  
 JOHN GREENE  
 JOHN HODSON, SR.  
 JOHN HODSON, JR.  
 JOSEPH MICHAEL  
 KATHERINE  
 KYLE & MEREDITH LEAHY  
 LAURA  
 LUCILLE OLSON  
 MARILYN  
 MYRTLE PERKINS  
 NIC SORRENTINO  
 PAIGE  
 PENNY  
 PHIL STEPHAN  
 RAY THORNE  
 RAYMOND GAGNON  
 RICK  
 RITA, PAUL & EVAN REDMOND  
 ROCKY  
 SOPHIA M.  
 STEVE  
 TERRI WILLIAMS  
 THOM & MAUREEN SHORTT  
 TOM CHADBOURNE

(cont'd from page 1)

at home with her children and needless to say Holy Nativity will be in search to replace a most efficient and organized Lizzi Campbell. Through these past years she has been my right hand (woman) in the office and very similar to “Radar” for those who remember M\*A\*S\*H from the 70s.

I know personally, I am going to miss her as both Lizzi and our Parish begin a “new” journey. I can only wish her the very best in everything. Please do take the time to stop by and show her an appreciation for all she has done for Holy Nativity. Lizzi will be leaving at the end of May so there is some time to call with a kind word or stop by with a warm smile to wish her the best.

Thank you Fr. Harry



**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who sponsored me on the 5 mile Walk for Sharing on Good Friday. Carol Ruggiero and Jean McKenny walked with me and together we raised nearly \$500.00. Thank you for helping to feed, educate and protect some of the poorest families in Mississippi and Alabama. I know you brought many smiles and they count too!

With love and thanksgiving for my Holy Nativity family,  
Shirley Hayes

**PRAYER LIST** – The parish of Holy Nativity and the Prayer Chain gladly remember anyone placed on the Prayer List. The original intent of the Prayer List had individuals on for only two to four weeks unless the office was informed. Understanding that there are chronic conditions and major life events, prayer recipients have been allowed to remain on for longer periods without any updates.

To allow individuals on the list the benefit of more focused prayers, The Church of the Holy Nativity asks members who have requested prayers for individuals to contact the office with an update. If there is no new information by the end of April, names will be removed in May.

Beginning in May, prayer recipients will be kept on the list for 6 months unless otherwise informed.

Please call 781.335.2030 or email [office@holynativityweymouth.org](mailto:office@holynativityweymouth.org).



**HOLY HAPPENINGS**

Church of the Holy Nativity  
8 Nevin Road  
South Weymouth, MA 02190

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAILED  
April 25, 2016

**Important Dates**

**May 8**  
**Mother's Day**

**May 12**  
**HH articles due**

**May 14**  
**Weymouth Garden Club**

**May 15**  
**Pentecost**  
**Nicholas Bastos Baptism**

**May 18**  
**Vestry meeting**

**Mission Statement**

The family of the Church of the Holy Nativity is called to be a caring community, committed to spiritual development; encouraging growth in each member's personal relationship with God, through Christ; by providing educational opportunities for youth and adults as well as Christian Formation for all, going forth to share God's message of love and forgiveness.

**Important Dates**

**May 21**  
**Geranium planting**  
**Music & the Military**

**May 29**  
**Book Sale**

**May 30**  
**Office closed**