

The Multi-Parish Retreat is Coming!

St. Luke's, CHS, Church of Our Saviour (Somerset) and Christ Church (Swansea) will be getting together from October 25-27 this year to have fun, deepen our faith, and deepen relationships. The cost is \$125-\$245 for the weekend and car-pooling will be available. Get a registration form from Pastor Lise or Gayle Velozo—**sign up by June 9 and save \$25!**

Great for families and singles, for the young and the mature. Held at the beautiful Barbara C. Harris Camp in Greenfield, NH, there will be something for everyone. Mark your calendars now and sign up soon!

May 5th Paint Party Fundraiser for Retreat



What: Fun! Fellowship! Art! Food!
Where: Christ Church, Swansea
When: May 5th (Sunday), 2-4-ish
Who: Members of St. Luke's, CHS, COS, Christ Church

The Paint Ladies will provide everything! From the \$40 pp cost, \$15 or \$20 will go to support the retreat! Sign up at thepaint-ladies.com or call LuAnn @ 508-446-4093.

Office Hours and Contact Info

The regular church office hours (when Missy is in the office) are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10-2 and Friday from 10-12. Pastor Lise is usually in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays as well. She can be reached at chsrev@gmail.com or 774-301-0460. Her days off are normally Mondays and Fridays, but do call for pastoral emergencies.

Church of the Holy Spirit

160 Rock Street Fall River, MA 02720

Phone: 508-672-5571 Email: chsfallriver@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/holyspiritfr



The Transition

Rev. Matt Stewart left Church of the Holy Spirit at the end of September, after serving for ten years as its first and only rector. Seven months later, where is the parish in its transition?

Though it may seem like “nothing has been happening” in terms of transition and search, quite a lot has been going on. I came on as your interim priest in mid-November, and we have walked from Advent through Easter in this time. The staff continue to work hard and work well together; the wardens, vestry and treasurer continue to lead the church with wisdom and care.

As is normal in transition times, some things change. The S. Almond Street community is coming to an end; the Spring Fever Festival will not be held this year. Due to lack of children, there is currently no Sunday School.

But we have welcomed new members and 4 children will be baptized here on May 19th. A regular group meets at 3:30 on Thursdays for Bible Study and prayer. The Friday Community Soup Kitchen also serves on Mondays now.

Recently, Treasurer Dave Higginbottom finished gathering information for the transition review required by the Diocese. Consultant Del Glover compiled the report and shared his findings with us. While CHS has a number of significant challenges (declining attendance, small number of leaders, heavy dependence on income from endowments), the report showed that the parish has exercised good financial oversight, is up to date on diocesan reporting, and is generally in decent financial shape.

That done, the parish is ready to consider next steps in the search process. A meeting of the vestry and search committee is scheduled for May 16, so that they can discuss what will come next:

- Does the church leadership need a breather after all the change of 2018 before starting the work of a search?
- Are they ready to move ahead now?
- Do they need to envision options for the future before considering who will help lead the parish?

Stay tuned, and keep praying! —Pastor Lise

May
2019

The Messenger

THE SORT-OF MONTHLY LETTER OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"COME, DISCOVER AND SHARE CHRIST'S JOY!"

Dates to Note!

May 4, Saturday 11-2—Garden Work Day with Food

May 5, Sunday, 9:30 service—Guest Speaker Martin Bentz from the Southeastern MA Islamic Society

May 5, Sunday, 2 pm—Paint Party Fundraiser for joint parish retreat, Christ Church, Swansea

May 9, Thursday, 6 pm—Vestry Meeting

May 12, Sunday, Mother's Day with special observance of Mary

May 16, Thursday, 6 pm, Special Combined Vestry and Search Committee Meeting

May 18, Saturday, Church of Our Saviour Coffee House, 7-10 pm, 2112 County Street, Somerset

May 19, Sunday, 9:30 service—Service of Holy Baptism for 4 children

May 26, Sunday, The Rev. Laurie Rofinot, Preaching and Presiding

June 1, Saturday, 10 am, Ordination of Sue Correira to the Diaconate, 138 Tremont Street, Boston

June 8, Saturday, 9-3, Joint Parish Retreat Yard Sale, Church of Our Saviour, Somerset

June 9, Sunday, Deadline for early sign-up for Joint Parish Retreat (\$25 off per person!)



Garden Work Day Saturday May 4th 11-2

Grab your gloves and
come on out!

We'll clean up, weed, and plant around the church. All are welcome and lunch will be served. If you want to help plan the day, gather with others after the 9:30 service on April 28th.

For more information, contact Amber Vieira (508-xxx-xxxx).



Picture: Papaver Orientale

By Dominicus Johannes Bergsma - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41056982>

Learn More about Islam!

Do you know when Ramadan is?
Why do Muslims fast?
How is Islam like Christianity?

We will have Martin Bentz of the Islamic Society of Southeastern MA as our speaker in the 9:30 worship service on Sunday, May 5th. Martin is the Outreach Coordinator for the Society and works actively with other faiths to improve life in our communities.

Martin will join us afterwards in coffee hour and answer questions. Please come for this wonderful opportunity to learn more about Islam and our own faith!