



Christ

Community

Compassion

We believe...

God gives us the gift of life through **Christ**.

God's glory is reflected in all that we are and all that we do.
ours is a position of both trust and responsibility.

We commit to...

grow in our love for God and one another.

live our lives as faithful and grateful guardians of God's resources.

regularly attend worship, prayer and strengthening fellowship.

use our time, talent and treasure in ministry serving others.

We invite each person to...

share the joy, wonder and mystery of God's presence.

actively participate in our church **community**.

show **compassion**, love and generosity as our faith response to God's gifts.

Trinity Church
1108 Main Street
Branford CT 06405
203-488-2681
www.trinitybranford.org



WORSHIP

Trinity's worship service follows a broad tradition using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, Rite II. Sunday services with Holy Eucharist are held at 8:00 and 10:00 AM and a healing service with Holy Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays at Noon.

Children, after attending Sunday School, rejoin their families in the sanctuary during the Peace.

In the early evening on Christmas Eve, Trinity offers a family service featuring a children's program. A traditional 11:00 PM candlelight service is preceded by a concert of seasonal choral and instrumental selections, a yearly highlight in the Trinity community. A service of the Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Christmas morning.



Holy Week provides numerous opportunities for worship beginning with Palm Sunday. Special services are held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Tenebrae and Maundy Thursday with Agape Dinner. Good Friday offers a children's program with relevant Liturgy, along with a town-wide ecumenical service with pulpit exchange, in which Trinity participates. Holy Saturday is a quiet day ending with the Great Vigil, an integral part of the Trinity tradition. Two festive services with special music are held on Easter Sunday.



1748

Rev. Samuel Johnson, DD, conducted the first official Episcopalian service in Branford.

The **Altar Guild** prepares and maintains all the altar linens, hangings, vessels and clergy vestments before each service, in addition to decorating the church for special holidays.

1784

Captain Samuel Russell hosted the first official meeting of the new Parish in his home. Fifty-four families agreed to build a simple 50 X 38 foot frame building on the Town Green.



1818

The name Trinity Church first appeared in official church records.



Our Lay Eucharist Ministers, bring the Eucharist to homebound parishioners. The **Prayer Chain** is a group of church members who volunteer to pray daily for those in need of long-term prayer and for emergency needs. Trinity's **Prayer Team**, a healing prayer group, meets at the baptismal font during the Eucharist at Sunday services for those needing special prayers.



Lay Ministers are a group of individuals who serve as acolytes, chalice bearers, intercessors, ushers, special assistants and lectors for both Sunday services.



A **Videographer** tapes the 10:00 AM service for those unable to attend church. The tape is then broadcast every Sunday evening on local cable access television.

When requested, Trinity clergy or LEMS visit patients in Connecticut Hospice, area hospitals and nursing homes. Once each month, Trinity clergy also offer a communion service to the Adult Day Care Center, as well as assisted living facilities in the community.



1852

The present church was built in English Gothic style.

1869

Trinity's first and only bell, weighing 2500 pounds, was cast in Troy, NY. It also served as Branford's first fire alarm until 1925.

1910

"Standing Angel", the first of Trinity's three Tiffany stained glass windows, was installed in the sanctuary.



The Trinity Choir, nineteen in number with two paid section leaders, provides sacred music in four-part harmony, including descants and weekly anthems, for the 10 AM Sunday Eucharist and special holidays. The choir is accompanied by organ and piano, as well as occasional violin and brass soloists.



Adult and Youth Hand Chime Choirs were formed within the past year, following an anonymous donation of a set of state-of-the-art hand chimes. Performances of traditional hymns are periodically chimed from the sanctuary's balcony.



Trinity's music program is a source of great pride within our parish.

1916

The Parish Hall was dedicated at a cost to build of \$8,481. During the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, it was used by the Town as a hospital.

1938

The copper cross and ball foundation atop Trinity's steeple were dedicated in memory of Richard Bradley.

1950

Much needed restoration work began when the basement was excavated and made into a modern room known as the Undercroft.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A number of diverse programs are offered within the Trinity community to meet the spiritual and educational needs of children, youth and adults in our parish.

Children's Education

Approximately 45 children are now enrolled in Church School. The Godly Play program, in place for twelve years, begins at 9:45 AM for children 3 to 10 years of age. Activities include art, music and story telling. Children join their families in the sanctuary during the Peace. Nursery Care is available during the 10:00 AM service for infants and toddlers.



1957

Our Parish House was constructed with a tunnel connection to the existing church.

1983

A freestanding altar, allowing the Rector to face the congregation during the Eucharist, was installed in memory of Reverend James Martin.

1984

Trinity's Bicentennial featured a number of musical concerts, an exhibit covering 200 years of Trinity's history and many other joyous celebrations.



Adult Education

Trinity offers Bible study groups throughout the year. Our Rector facilitates Inquirers' classes through which adults are prepared for confirmation, while the Associate Rector leads separate classes for teens. Weekly education classes, sometimes with light suppers, are held throughout Lent and Advent.



1993

Restoration Phase I: Funds were raised to upgrade the electrical system, install a new roof, restore three sides of the church, provide exterior lighting protection and repair the steeple.



Youth Education

Middle School and High School youth attend more traditional programs and take part in community service and special events. In 2009, Trinity youth joined their peers in the community to paint and repair homes in a group work camp, an event sponsored by Tabor Lutheran Church. Activities include over night diocesan events, collecting and serving meals to the homeless.

1996 – 2000

Restoration Phase II: Additional funds from a second drive were used to complete the renovation of the church façade, repoint the tower foundation and replace the Parish Hall roof.

MISSIONS

Trinity is blessed with very active **Missions Committees** providing assistance on community, local and international levels, to countless groups and individuals who are fed, clothed and comforted through various outreach programs.

Community

Branford Community Dining Room: Trinity volunteers serve meals every other month.

Branford Fuel Assistance: Funds are raised through an annual dinner, which are then donated to town residents to help defray home heating costs.

Branford Food Council: Weekly donations of food by parishioners are distributed to local families.

Tagless Tag Sale: Clothing, personal and household items are donated by Trinity parishioners and distributed twice a year to invited community "shoppers" in need.

Local

The Angel Tree Prison Ministry: Provides Christmas gifts to the children of those incarcerated.

Columbus House Homeless Shelter / New Haven: Parishioners donate food and serve a meal once each month.

Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven (DVSGNH): Contributions of clothing and personal items.

The Walk Against Hunger: Parish participation in walks raises donations for the Connecticut Food Bank.

White Envelope Program: Involves one donation envelope for each month of the year and is monitored by the Diocese. Funds raised are split between two programs, one in-diocese and one out-of-diocese.

Life Haven / New Haven: Shelter for homeless women and their children, providing kitchen and household items, clothing and personal necessities.



International

Guatemala / Common Hope Project: A beloved Parish mission dedicated to enhancing the awareness for the education and welfare of impoverished children and their families in Central America. The Parish sponsors four children through Common Hope. Another six youngsters are sponsored by individual families within Trinity's membership. Trinity has sent two teams to Guatemala, one in 2007 and another in 2008.



1999

The façade tower was restored, the gold cross was regilded and four new pinnacles were remounted at the base of the steeple

2002

Air conditioning was installed in the church.



PARISH LIFE

Trinity Church is a truly welcoming parish with many diverse ministries offering nurturing and personal enrichment to all its parishioners.

Lay Ministries...

A continual effort to share our faith is made through each of Trinity's many ministries in providing spiritual and emotional support for everyday life.

Pastoral Care, perhaps our largest and busiest ministry, encompasses the following areas:

The Kitchen Ministry provides home-cooked meals for those ill or in special need.

Visitations are made to parishioners who are shut-in, or have other specific needs.

Telephone calls are made as a follow-up to visits.

Cards and Notes are sent in times of illness, convalescence, bereavement, or special occasions such as the birth of a baby. **Transportation** is provided to those of our parishioners who are unable to get to church services on their own.

The **Flower Ministry** delivers the altar flowers following Sunday services each week to those in need of cheer and comfort.



Small Group Ministries are found throughout the Trinity community addressing such interests as Prayer, Youth activities, periodic Bible Study, "Strictly Social" events held at parishioners' homes and other locations, and a secular Book Discussion group. Once each month, the Shoreline Quilters Community group uses Trinity's facilities to practice their craft. Our Prayer Shawl Knitting/Crocheting group donates hand-made shawls, lap blankets and bears to parishioners and Hospital patients. The Trinity Quilting Group makes breath-taking quilts, which are raffled off yearly at our church fair. All these groups function as specific ministries of and within our church, open to anyone interested.



2004 – 2008

Restoration Phase III: A third fund drive was launched raising capital for a monitored fire and alarm system throughout all buildings. Electrical systems were upgraded and are now code compliant. Renovation of the Parish Hall, interior and exterior, was completed. The lobby area between the church and the Parish Hall was redesigned to provide handicapped accessible bathrooms.





Wider Church Involvement...

Parish clergy, along with two elected delegates and one alternate delegate, represent Trinity at New Haven Deanery meetings held once a month during the academic year. These same delegates also attend the Diocesan convention held annually in Hartford.

Community Life...

The Annual Church Fair held on the Branford Green, is a huge effort uniting parishioners in a common fundraising goal. First Sunday Breakfast provides an opportunity for 8 AM and 10 AM church service attendees to come together and enjoy the fellowship of one another's company and friendship.



2007

The One Hundredth Anniversary of Trinity's Annual Church Fair was celebrated on the Branford Green



Trinity contributes 12.5% of its income to the Diocese, the standard set by diocesan convention, and operates under the auspices of the Diocese, honoring and following the rules and regulations set forth by canon law. Each year, Trinity meets the diocesan pledge to which we have committed.

Our parish participates in a number of ecumenical and/or community-wide events each year, such as a Good Friday Ecumenical service involving all the churches of Branford, and a Blessing of the Animals event held on the Branford Green. Trinity also provides its own representative to the Branford Green Committee as a means to give our parishioners a voice in the management and care of this historic ground on which our church rests.

2007 and 2008

Vision Team traveled to Guatemala to meet the children sponsored by Trinity and assisted in the construction of one-room homes

RESTORATION

A master plan for the restoration of Trinity's buildings was commissioned in 1992. During the course of the next fifteen years, parishioners pledged over \$1,000,000 to ensure the integrity and safety of all church structures. Issues such as weather protection, code compliance and handicapped accessibility to church entrances were corrected and updated. The church's sanctuary and Parish Hall were given new roofing, siding and windows. Hardwood floors were installed in the Parish Hall and its walls were given a fresh coat of paint. The kitchen was updated and a nearby room was renovated to include a nursery and choir room. Fire alarm systems, electrical wiring and lighting throughout all buildings were replaced and new handicapped accessible rest rooms were installed in the lobby area. Critical weather proofing corrections were made to the tunnel connecting the church and Parish House and exterior steps and landings were repaired and replaced. Upgrades were applied to the boiler and the sanctuary's air conditioning equipment. Improvements were also made to the electrical room.



The restoration of Trinity's sanctuary and attached buildings has been an enormous undertaking, involving tremendous planning and fundraising efforts. The results of our labors have been very gratifying but there is still much to do.



Targeted future restoration projects include the replacement of the front steps. Upgrades to the church's handicapped accessibility are also to be addressed by improving our exterior ramp and adding a long-awaited elevator. The appearance of our undercroft will also be vastly improved with new walls, ceilings, flooring and lighting.



BUILDINGS and GROUNDS

The cornerstone for the present church, English Gothic in style with seating for 310 people, was laid in April of 1851. Cost of completion in 1852 was \$5,000.

Trinity's magnificent stained glass windows, three of which are early 20th-century **Tiffany**, reflect the beauty of the sanctuary. An 18-Rank Moller organ was dedicated in 1969, to which alterations were applied in 2001. The installation of a Verdin electronic carillon followed in 2005.

A Parish Hall, used for meetings, coffee hours and receptions, was added to the west side of the church in 1916 and has been extensively renovated over the past ten years. Space under the Hall was excavated in the 1950s to provide a fully equipped kitchen, Sunday School rooms and storage areas.

Located immediately behind the sanctuary, the Parish House was constructed in 1957 and contains offices, meeting space and Sunday School rooms.



Parish work days are held twice each year to help maintain the grounds.



We at Trinity are very proud of our lovely white church on the Green, rooted deep in New England history, and feel passionately about preserving its architectural beauty and integrity. A historic landmark, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, making our parish caring stewards of Trinity's structural legacy and welfare.



The Rectory, built in 1954, is a two-mile drive from the church itself. It is a two-story, wood frame colonial saltbox, providing four bedrooms, two baths, a study, living room, dining room and a recently remodeled kitchen, as well as a two-car garage. A private beach for area residents is within short walking distance.



PARISH ADMINISTRATION and FINANCE

The Vestry is currently composed of nine people, each of whom is elected for a three-year term. In addition, there are two Wardens, a Clerk, and a Treasurer. Candidates are nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the parish at large at the annual Parish Meeting in January.

Following a number of years as a two-priest parish, the Vestry has determined that we cannot, at this time, financially support more than one clergy person. This decision, involving lengthy discussion and thoughtful prayer, was based on our current Stewardship campaign. We have three part-time paid positions. Parish Administrator, the first, oversees the office each morning, with volunteers covering those duties in the afternoon. The second, Music Director/Organist is responsible for our music programs. The third position is a half time Sexton.

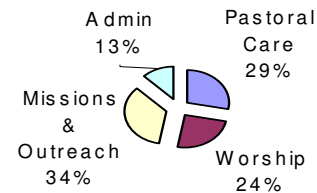
Pledging is the principal, but not the only source of income for Trinity Church. Some parishioners do not pledge, or pledge only in part, but generously support the Church as needed, and as they can. The bulk of the proceeds generated by our Annual Church Fair go to the General Fund, a portion of which also goes to Outreach. Our annual budget is also supplemented by a percentage of the interest proceeds from our endowment fund.

	Average Sunday Attendance	Number of active members	Total Operational Revenue	Income Plate and pledged	Total Operating Expenses	Total Investment (market value)
2008	185	*370	\$325,687	\$248,197	\$330,402	\$980,123
2004	218	566	\$309,578	\$258,307	\$312,025	\$1,102,139
2000	224	480	\$276,743	\$226,516	\$256,631	\$908,544

*New Data Base



Operating Budget Distribution



STEWARDSHIP

Trinity's Stewardship philosophy is to offer a year-round program encouraging parishioners to participate in ministry, bible study and fellowship activities; to privately pray and attend designated prayer/quiet days; to regularly attend worship and to financially pledge. The Stewardship Committee informs, educates, thanks, celebrates and tells the stories. Our time and talents are highlighted through a ministry fair and Ministry Spotlights published in our monthly newsletter called The Messenger.

Proportionate giving is emphasized and in 4 of the last 5 years we asked for double-digit pledge increases to which parishioners supportively responded. While the number of pledging households has slightly decreased over the last decade, the average weekly pledge has increased. Parishioners are opening their hearts in testimonials that speak to the positive impact Trinity ministries have on their lives and those of others.

Vital to church growth are new members. We developed a process to extend the warm welcome felt by visitors to sustain their interest and integrate them as newcomers into the church community. With focus and energy we have seen positive results and we continue to improve in this work.



OUR COMMUNITY

A welcoming New England community, Branford is a Connecticut shoreline town with a population of 30,000 located on Long Island Sound in New Haven County.

Branford is a fairly affluent town with a median household income of \$72,000 per year.

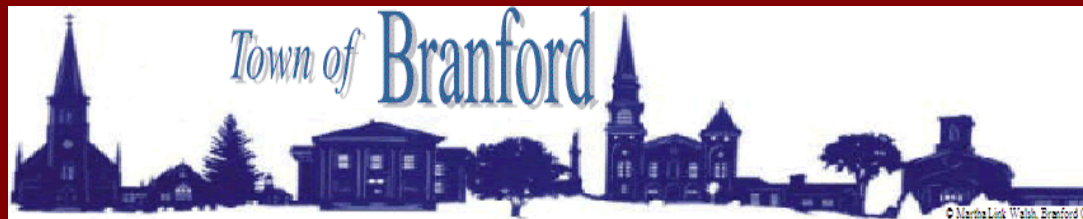
The Branford Land Trust, founded in 1967, is committed to the protection and preservation of our local natural resources. It owns nearly 775 acres of open space and has worked for the acquisition of several large publicly owned tracts.

Recreational areas include a public beach with nearby picnic facilities and a spacious park offering tennis and basketball courts, a baseball field and walking paths.

Additional information pertaining to Branford may be found by visiting the following websites:

Town of Branford
Board of Education
Branford Land Trust

branford-ct.gov
branford.k12.ct.us
branfordlandtrust.org



PARISH GOALS

The parishioners of Trinity Church especially want to:
Complete our transition into a “program” church while maintaining our vitality.
Increase and develop lay leadership.
Promote a culture of lifelong spiritual education/growth/learning.
Identify and focus our resources for effective ministries in the parish and the world.



WHAT THE RECTOR CAN EXPECT FROM OUR PARISH

A commitment to supporting the building of a program church.
A parish welcoming of different people and ideas.
An active and committed vestry.
A strong music program, missions ministry, church school and stewardship program.
A recent history of running and completing several capital and restoration campaigns.

EXPECTATIONS OF OUR RECTOR

Experience in leading a parish from a pastoral to a program church.
Christ centered, energetic, inspirational visionary.
Experience in creating an organizational structure that develops lay leaders.
Financially aware.





This profile is the result of a very challenging task. Eleven thoughtful parishioners cannot articulate all that is Trinity Church Branford in these few pages. We have tried our best to provide a snapshot of a warm, welcoming parish, building on the foundation laid by some outstanding Rectors, and an inspired lay leadership showing no signs of slowing down. But the Lord is calling us to do so much more. We are a parish in transition from a Pastoral to a Program church and are looking for the Rector whom God has called to lead us the rest of the way. With everything we jointly undertake, you will find help and support in an active laity. It is our hope that with your guidance, we may continue to develop strong lay leadership to share in the responsibility of moving our church forward. If your journey takes you in another direction, we wish you Godspeed. If, however, these words and images compel you to be with us, then roll up your sleeves and join us... lead us.



VESTRY

Sandra Baldwin	Senior Warden
Michael Freeman	Junior Warden
Regis Conlon	Treasurer
James Atkinson	Clerk
Kim Humphrey	
Sherry Jones	
Rod McHenry	
Ann Freeman	
Phoebe Burbine	
Laura Radulski	
Cathy Seibyl	



The Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglass
Bishop elect

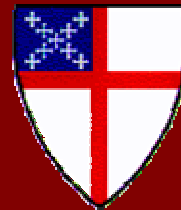


The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
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Bishop Suffragan



The Rt. Rev. James E. Curry
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Rev. Canon Erik Larsen
Canon for Transition Ministry



SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mark McElrath	Chair
David Rowe	Vice-Chair
Jeanne McParland	Secretary
Martha Monico	Chaplin
Dru Dodd	
Gordon Simerson	
Rosalind Jones	
Otty Norwood	
Peter Otis	
Sandra Baldwin	Senior Warden
Michael Freeman	Junior Warden
Rev. Gregory Welin	Diocesan Search Consultant

