



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Published by Trinity Episcopal Church — on the Green in Branford, Connecticut

April 2011

The Long Walk to Easter

Holy Week

Tuesday

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday

Noon Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist,
Foot Washing, Stripping
of the Altar, Watch

Good Friday

11:00 am Children's
Program
Noon Ecumenical Walk
7:00pm Liturgy

Easter Sunday

8:00 & 10:00 am
Holy Eucharist

Everyone has commented on how late Easter is this year. How does that happen? Easter is one of the few “moveable feasts” on the calendar. Its date does not rely on the civil calendar; it is more astronomical.

The date of Easter is dependent on the lunar cycle. At the Council of Nicea, held in the year 325, the date for Easter was set as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. This gives us a window from between March 22nd and April 25th.

So it's true that Easter is very late this year. We are one day before the latest possible date. At least the snow should all be gone by then!

But before we get to Easter, there is the most holy and profound season of the church year—Holy Week. It is its own season. During this week we



are drawn from the ominous frenzy of Palm Sunday through the Passover meal and the betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane. We become witnesses of Jesus' arrest, unlikely trials, beatings and sentencing. His staggering walk to Golgotha and the horror of crucifixion. If not for his having endured it all for our sake, it would be too much for us. We are meant to be disturbed and disquieted by the events of Holy Week, for only through them does the joy of Easter fully bloom.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Spirituality Ministry	2
Worship Ministry	3
Parish Life Ministry	3
Stewardship	4
Education Ministry	5
Administration	5
Saint of the Month	7

From the Rector



It is a bit strange to be writing this Easter message as Lent is just beginning. But it is one of the blessings of Christianity that we know

how the story ends.

We have the benefit of history that the disciples did not have. Perhaps we are too hard on them for their inability to be prepared for the cross and the sub-

sequent empty tomb. Would any of us have had the vision and wisdom to know what Jesus meant ahead of those events?

We are the lucky ones in so many ways. The meaning of Easter has been discussed and dissected for 2000 years all so that we might understand its wonder. Perhaps the best thing about Easter is that it still remains a mystery. It is a fantastical story and yet it continues to draw us together Sunday after Sunday thousands of miles and years after it happened.

The miracle of Easter is that it continues to happen in our lives as we are perpetually brought to new life after trial and failure and heartbreak. Just as we cannot know what

(Continued on page 5)

Spirituality Ministry

By Bob Barnett



What is a Labyrinth, and what significance does it have for one's spiritual journey, especially in Lent?

A labyrinth is an ancient pattern inscribed on the ground or a floor. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth contains only one path to and from the center.

The labyrinth of Greek

mythology was found in Crete and was adapted for Christian purposes in medieval times, most famously at Chartres Cathedral.

One's journey through a labyrinth progresses in three stages: on the path in, letting go (releasing); at the center, meditation and prayer (receiving); and on the path out, joining God (returning).

There are many labyrinths in Connecticut (visit <http://labyrinthlocator.com>). An outdoor labyrinth near Branford can be found at The Mercy Center at Madison (a Roman Catholic retreat). As seen below, my daughter Clare and I visited it recently.



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 1)

The Long Walk to Easter

This year at Trinity, we will mark the events of Holy Week with a Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm in the church, with foot washing, Eucharist and the stripping of the altar. In response to Jesus' plea, 'Won't anyone stay awake with me?', members of Trinity will take turns throughout the night being present and praying. Signup sheets are available in the office.

Good Friday in Branford is always a community observance. We walk together on this most solemn day of the year and reflect on the events and significance of such a death beginning at St. Mary's Catholic Church, then on to the First Baptist Church, moving to the First Congregational Church and we end as always at Trinity. Then in the evening, at 7:00 pm, we will gather for a traditional Good Friday liturgy.

Saturday is a day of quiet reflection and prayer. This year there will be no Saturday evening Easter Vigil. We will wait until Easter morning to shout our Halleluiahs and give grateful thanks for our Risen Lord.

You are encouraged to take part in Holy Week to the fullest that your schedule will allow. Make the effort and walk through the time of trial with Jesus so that you can truly be partakers of the Easter joy.

Submission deadline for the following months *Messenger* is the 15th of the current month. Please submit hard copy to the office or e-mail ajfree-man@comcast.net. Photographs are welcome.

It is respectfully requested material not be formatted (no bolds, underlines, bullets, truncated lines, unusual spacing, etc) since graphic design software doesn't know what to do with it!

Articles and event notices will be reviewed by an editor. Editorial rights are reserved for clarity and to fit space constraints.

Communication Ministry Contributors

Features Rev. Sharon & Ann Freeman

Editors Jo-Ann Pearson, Jim Atkinson

Layout Ann Freeman

Photos Peter Otis (only the good ones!)

Copy/Fold/Mail Ruth Buell, Dru Dodd, Jane Dougherty, Bill Gilpatrick, Mary McCarthy, Judy Nelson, Roberta Rowe

Past issues are on the parishioner site.

Worship Ministry

Music for Easter Day

Alleluias will return at both festive celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 on Easter Day, April 24. Matthew Montagna, last year's Easter trumpeter, will come back to Trinity to add flourishes and descants to our Easter hymn-singing. He will also play with the choir's presentation of Will MacFarlane's splendid setting of the great Easter canticle, "Christ Our Passover." The congregation will sing favorite Easter hymns such as "Jesus Christ is risen today," "The strife is o'er," "This is the feast of victory for our God," "At the Lamb's high feast we sing," and "The day of resurrection." At the close of the service the choir will offer the popular "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*.

Strengthening Prayer

Prayer Meditation in worship continues but with a change of music to reflect the somber tone of Lent.

"...likely the most peaceful feeling I will have had all this week . . ."

The weekly virtual prayer is drawing positive feedback. Everyone is encouraged to remember individuals and groups in need of our collective prayers.

"...At home I can take my time. I read each and every name and as I pray for each one I feel so close to them ..."

Visitors and parishioners may submit prayer requests via a pew prayer card left in the offertory plate, or, call or e-mail the office.

Lilies on the Altar for Easter

If you would like to remember a loved one at Easter, please send a check payable to Trinity Church with 'lily' on the memo line. Be sure to include the names of those being remembered. Send your check and the name(s) to the office via the offertory plate, the drop slot in the office door or by mail. Checks should be received no later than **April 19th**.

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers Available

We are pleased to offer gluten-free wafers for people with such dietary sensitivities. Please make the request when you take communion.

Parish Life Ministry

A New Look for the Trinity Fair

The 104th Trinity Fair, scheduled for September 10th, will bring us some of the tried and true favorites—great pancakes, a beautiful quilt to auction and other craft items, the book sale, shortcake and other yummy baked goods.



What we will not be doing this year is the Tag Sale. Although a popular event with shoppers, it is such a labor-intensive undertaking that it seems like a good time to take a break from it. There will, however, be lots of other interesting reasons for the people of Branford to come out for the day. This year we will begin to show the town of Branford some of the things that make this wonderful church what it is;

- a tent with Godly Play story-telling and other children's activities,
- a labyrinth,
- the Cub Scouts with their Pine Wood Derby track,
- a challenge to build a record breaking tower of canned goods for the Branford Food Pantry,
- a Heifer Project petting zoo,
- alternative Gift Fairs with crafts from Africa and Latin America,
- and the building of a custom playhouse during the day to be auctioned off to benefit Habitat

(Continued on page 4)

Parish Life Ministry

Stewardship of the Environment

(Continued from page 3)

for Humanity.

These and others projects will reflect the varied interests and projects of Trinity Church. The Fair will be under the able direction of Rodney Hayes, an experienced Fair Chair with lots of others heading up individual projects. This year's Fair should be a lot of fun and a good chance for the people of Branford to learn something about the church behind the red doors.



Welcome to Trinity!

Kathy Sanchez is a long-time Branford resident. Kathy is a graduate of Fairfield University with a degree in math. Kathy has worked at GE in Fairfield for nearly 30 years, holding positions in information technology and quality. Currently

she is the Leader of Global Employee Health Services. She enjoys travel, golf, and has recently begun to learn yoga and pilates. She and her husband Matt, a software consultant, are designing their retirement home on a golf course in sunny North Carolina. Kathy has enjoyed getting involved with the Tagless Tag Sale and Angel Tree programs at Trinity. She attends the 8 o'clock service.



Bill Holohan After 42 years as a Branford resident, Bill now lives in East Haven. Bill was married for 56 years to the late Rachel Brooks Holohan. He is dad to Kathy Sanchez and Bill III (Felicia), Tom (Bianca) and Michael (Nadine). He enjoys spending

time with them and his five grandchildren: Bill IV, Bryce, Samantha, Brianna and Bennett. Bill has spent his life in service, as a US Navy Veteran and a police officer, retiring as Chief of the Branford Police Department after a 44-year career in law enforcement. He previously served on the New Haven PD. He is an avid reader and enjoys travel, hockey, UConn basketball and the NY Yankees. Bill attends the 8 o'clock service.

(Continued on page 6)

Earth Day, April 22nd

Is God green? Did Jesus have anything to say about the environment? What is my role as a Christian in caring for the earth? People are starting to ask these questions as we confront a new situation unique to our history—are we killing our planet?



Gardening season is about to begin. Here are some earth-

“And God saw that it was good”,
Gen 1-3

friendly tips. Practice organic horticultural methods for healthier shrubs, flowers and grass, and a more bountiful fruit and vegetable harvest. Replace synthetic pesticide and synthetic fertilizer with natural products. You will have healthy bees and beneficial insects, fewer threats to your pets, children and grandchildren, and the runoff water that eventually ends up in the Sound will be less threatening. Buy plants and products from garden centers and suppliers who advocate for and support organic growers; buy food from farmers markets and choose restaurants which buy from local organic farmers. Take a class! You will feel great satisfaction!

Resources to get you started:

www.ctnofa.org Northeast Organic Farming Association, offering a bounty of fresh, organic, healthy and tasty food grown by CT farmers, listings of farmers markets, grocers and restaurants that sell local produce and farm products.

www.pesticideinfo.org Pesticide Action Network

www.naturework.com Organic horticulture education, plants and products

Earth Day falls in Holy Week, so Trinity Church will defer a celebration to May 1st with a blessing for the earth. Bring a little soil and add it to the offering, then take it home to be a blessing to your garden.

Administration

Leadership Notes

Due to the lag time between leadership meetings and availability of approved minutes, Leadership Notes summarizes current agenda topics to provide more timely communication. Approved final minutes may be read at www.trinitybranford.org/parishioners/publications.html, and in the office.

Vestry Meeting, March 15th

By Mark McElrath

Sharon reported overwhelming support for the new meditation format during Sunday services. Vestry approved contracts to have the church exterior painted this spring. Sharon advised the 2010 mandatory parochial report is filed, reflecting 25 new members. Jr. Warden Kris Lockwood advised that the Table Of Chairs (TOC) is functioning and held their first meeting. Sr. Warden Mark McElrath is working with Mike McGuinness on a ten-year master plan for buildings and grounds. Lastly, Vision planning continued.

Table of Chairs, February 24th

By Kris Lockwood

Kris Lockwood, Jr. Warden a/k/a The People's Warden, convened the first TOC. The purpose of the TOC is to provide the program focus that helps a program-size church flourish and grow. It empowers the laity and frees the Vestry to be the visionary leadership. Meetings will be quarterly, focused on future planning and coordination of activities. Budget management was discussed. Sharon shared her view of the Trinity Fair so that the town can know us better.

Memo to self

Are you receiving weekly e-mails from Trinity? On Tuesday we distribute the Prayer list so that we may pray together as a virtual prayer community. On Friday, *Trinity in Touch* provides last minute reminders about what's happening this coming week. To receive this information, please e-mail trinitychurch@trinitybranford.org.

(Continued from page 1) **From the Rector**

transpired in the tomb, we can never know when Easter will enter our lives. We can only be sure that it will.

Blessings to you, **Sharon+**

Christian Education Ministry

Inquirer's Classes

For those inquiring minds who would like to know more about the Episcopal Church, this is your opportunity. For five Wednesday evenings, beginning on **May 4th, at 7:00 pm**, we will gather in the Parish Hall for sessions chock-full of good information about how the Episcopal Church came to be, what is in the Prayer Book, how do we read and interpret the Bible and worship, what and how do we think about things, and what it means to be part of the world wide Anglican Communion.

This class is designed to be preparation for those wishing to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, but it is also a good refresher course for anyone wanting to hone their church knowledge.

Youth Education: Lent and Easter Program

During Lent, Sunday school children are getting ready for Easter.

Middle school aged children (grades 5-8) are discussing and experiencing a "spiritual journey". To correspond to the Wednesday night adult program (*Souper Lenten Series, Spiritual Journey*), they will be learning about their thoughts, controlling what their brain thinks about and practicing some meditation and deep breathing. They will have an opportunity to examine their thoughts on love, concerns for others, fear, worry and sacrifice.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 2) **Spirituality Ministry**

Rome to Canterbury

The first conversation for those members of the Trinity community who were raised in the Roman Catholic tradition will be held on **Tuesday, May 3rd, in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm**.

We will take this opportunity to begin reflecting on the similarities and differences for our two traditions and what it means to embrace the Anglican way of thinking and being in one's faith. There should be lively conversation and challenging ideas to take home and ponder before the next installment.

Parish Life Ministry

(Continued from page 4)



Jen Zehler recently moved from Belmar, NJ, to Guilford. She teaches in the early childhood department, at the Breakthrough Magnet School in Hartford, where the focus is on developing students as models of outstanding character. Jen's passions include: reading, yoga, biking, cooking, and traveling. She is also an advocate for social justice.

With a strong sense of responsibility to give back to the community, Jen volunteers at the Literacy Resource Center in New Haven, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, The Women and Family Life Center in Guilford, and is working towards volunteering at the Connecticut Hospice. Jen hopes to serve in the Peace Corp. She attends the 10'clock service.

Kelley & Richard

Esposito Kelley was born and raised in Branford. Her husband Richard Esposito, born in Boston, was raised in East Haven. They met on Match.com, married in 2008 and welcomed baby Mia in September



2010. Richard is a self-employed professional photographer, in Branford, and travels the US and internationally photographing and speaking to photographers. Richard won Emmy's for his previous career as a video editor in TV news. Kelley is a physical therapist for Star Physical Therapy. She enjoys swimming, tennis, and going for walks. Richard plays golf, is on the board of directors for the CT Professional Photographers Association and volunteers for the National MS Society. The Esposito family attends the 10 o'clock service.

Fellowship

First Sunday Breakfast, April 3rd

This month's yummy menu is V-8 or orange juice, French toast and bacon, coffee and tea. It's \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. Please RSVP to the office, or use the signup sheets in the Narthex (back of the church) and Parish Hall.

A special invitation goes out to our newer members. This is a great way to meet other parishioners from both services, and lets us get to know you a little bit. Breakfast is in the undercroft, through the doors to the Parish Hall, down the stairs.

Trinity Book Group – April 6th

The Trinity Book Group will gather at 7:00pm in the Guild Room. This month's book selection is ***The Last Lecture*** by **Randy Pausch**. It's a true story that goes beyond the now-famous lecture, to inspire us all to live each day of our lives with purpose and joy. "We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand." For more information about the Trinity Book Group, please call the office or e-mail Alison at AlisonBarbaro@comcast.net. All are welcome.

Randolph Frederick "Randy" Pausch was a professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Pausch learned he had cancer and was given a terminal diagnosis: "3 to 6 months of good health left." On September 18, 2007, he gave an upbeat lecture titled, "The Last Lecture: Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams", at Carnegie Mellon, which became a popular YouTube video and led to other media appearances. He then co-authored a book called *The Last Lecture* on the same theme, which became a *New York Times* best-seller. He died on July 25, 2008.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 5) Christian Education

The younger children—pre-school to grade 4—are getting ready to celebrate the mystery of Easter. Pre-school and kindergarten aged children are traveling to Jerusalem and Jesus will show them the way. They will hear the stories of how Jesus healed Bartimaeus and restored his sight; of Jesus' love and guidance for Zacchaeus; about Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem where people waved palm branches as he entered the great high gates, and reflect on the Last Passover.

The older elementary aged children in grades 1-4, are hearing stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and the resurrection. They will explore the Seven Faces of Christ as One who was a newborn, as One who was lost then found, as One who was baptized and blessed, as One who was tempted, as One who healed and told parables, as One who offered bread and wine, and One who was Easter and still is. These stories will be enriched with an exploration of a variety of cross shapes and the symbolism behind Easter eggs.

Saint of the Month

Background

The Episcopal Church publishes *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, containing feast days for various men and women the Church wishes to honor for their commitment to Christ and their witness to their faith. Such witnesses, by the grace of God, live in every age.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, April 9



Pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born Feb. 4, 1906. He studied at the universities of Berlin and Tuebingen. His doctoral thesis was published in 1930 as *Communio Sanctorum*.

From the first days of the Nazi accession to power in 1933, Bonhoeffer was involved in protests against the regime. From 1933 to 1935 he was the pastor of two small congregations in London, but nonetheless was a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, center of Protestant resistance to the Nazis. In 1935 Bonhoeffer was appointed to organize and head a seminary for the Confessing Church at Finkenwald. He described the community in *Life Together* and later wrote *The Cost of Discipleship*.

Bonhoeffer became increasingly involved in the political struggle after 1939, when he was introduced to the group seeking Hitler's overthrow. He considered seeking refuge in the United States, but returned to Germany to continue his resistance. In May 1942 he flew to Sweden to meet Bishop Bell and convey through him to the British government proposals for a negotiated peace. The proposals were rejected by the Allies who insisted on unconditional surrender.

Bonhoeffer was arrested April 4, 1943, and imprisoned in Berlin. After an attempt on Hitler's life failed April 9, 1944, documents linking Bonhoeffer to the conspiracy were discovered. He was taken to Buchenwald concentration camp, then to Schoenberg Prison. On Sunday, April 8, 1945, as he concluded a service in a Schoenberg school building, two men came in with the summons; "Prisoner Bonhoeffer ...come with us." He said to a fellow prisoner, "This is the end. For me, the beginning of life." Bonhoeffer was hanged the next day at Flossenbug Prison.

Bonhoeffer's life is a remarkable unity of faith, prayer, writing and action. The pacifist theologian came to accept the guilt of plotting the death of Hitler because he was convinced it would be a greater evil not to do so. Disciple-

ship was to be had at great cost.

A Prayer

Gracious God, the Beyond in the midst of our life, you gave grace to your servant Dietrich Bonhoeffer to know and to reach the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and to bear the cost of following him. Grant that we, strengthened by his teaching and example, may receive your word and embrace its call with an undivided heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

Outreach Ministry

Fight Hunger! Trek with Trinity Trekkers!

The Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a team to walk a 2.5 to 3 mile walk to benefit the CT Food Bank. Every step and every dollar raised makes a difference! A \$5 contribution provides more than 17 meals—and hope for a better tomorrow—to someone in need. Our goal is \$100.

Join us and enjoy a beautiful spring day, Sunday May 1, @ 1:00 pm, College Woods Pavilion, East Rock Park, New Haven. We walk rain or shine. The money raised goes directly to providing groceries and hot meals to hungry children, families, and seniors throughout CT.

If you would like to contribute without doing the walk, please visit <http://ctfoodbank.blueskycollaborative.com/cfb/participants.asp>, click on Donate to a Team, scroll down to **Trek with Trinity** and fill out your information.

E-mail inquiries to Steve Sharma@SSharma698@aol.com or call 1-203-377-7149. Thank you!!

(Continued from page 6)

Parish Life

In Memoriam

Eleanor Maine Burdick

May her soul and those of all the departed rest in peace.

Trinity Episcopal Church
1109 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

The Rev. Sharon Gracen, Rector
Ronald Baldwin,
Organ Master & Music Director

Parish Office 203-488-2681
e-mail: trinitychurch@trinitybranford.org
www.trinitybranford.org

Worship at Trinity

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
9:45 am Sunday School and
Nursery Care
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
With music and choir

Televised on Channel 18
7:00 pm Sundays

Wednesday

12:10 pm Eucharist & Healing
Service, Guild Room

Trinity Church "Messenger" (USPC 611040) published
by Trinity Episcopal Church, 1109 Main Street,
Branford, CT 06405.
Second Class Postage Paid at Branford CT.
Send address changes to above address.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2011, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 First Sunday Breakfast	4	5	6 #4 Souper Lenten Series	7	8	9 Saint Bonhoeffer day
10	11	12	13 #5 Sou- per Lenten Series	14	15 Messen- ger deadline	16 Work Day
17 Palm Sunday	18	19 7:00 Holy Eucharist	20 12:00 Holy Eucharist	21 Maundy Thursday	22 Good Friday Earth Day	23
24 Easter Sun- day	25	26	27	28	29	30