



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

April 2012



Where Joy and Sorrow Meet

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Basic Needs in Branford

The long economic struggle has taken a toll on many people in Branford. Our town is blessed to have a small but effective safety net that is administered by a number of agencies. Each agency has seen an increase in requests for help and is scrambling to keep up with the need.

Rev. Sharon is part of a small group that organized an event called the Branford Basic Needs Summit which brought together all helping agencies along with other community leaders to identify the scope of the growing need and what the cost might be to actually meet those needs. The United Way of New Haven took part in the Summit and looks forward to working with us.

Having brought together everyone's facts and figures, the plan is to imagine a community that says that we will not allow anyone in our community to fall into desperation.

We're all better when we're all OK

Throughout the summer, residents of Branford will be challenged to find a way to be involved with **Branford Cares** — a town-wide initiative with the goal of raising \$300,000 to fund basic needs for our neighbors. Every organization, business, club, neighborhood, and individual is invited to exercise their creativity and have fun raising their contribution. Lemonade stands to black tie dinners, we are only limited by our imagination. If everyone does a bit, our neighbors will have the help they need. See branfordcares.org for more information.

From the Rector

Dear Trinity Friends,



Blessed Holy Week and a Joyous Easter, it all happens in a rush that sometimes it's hard to stay in the present. We all know that Easter is coming but it is important that we allow each holy moment from Palm Sunday to Easter morning to have its particular impact and character. Maundy Thursday is such a beautiful liturgy, with the added challenge of foot-washing. We are supposed to be made uncomfortable by that ancient ritual and then the enactment of the first Eucharist followed by the stripping of the altar. As all of the beautiful things are carefully removed and put away, we are reminded of the beauty of Christ which was removed from the world on the next day. What is left is somber indeed.

From the Rector

(Continued from page 1)

The impulse to skip over Good Friday, at least emotionally, is hard to resist. We know what happens, why do we have to focus on such misery? Without real attention to Good Friday, we sanitize the sacrifice. By covering our eyes, we don't have to see what still lurks in the human heart. Without our encounter with the cross on Friday, Easter Sunday is a watered down pretty day. Be courageous and walk with Jesus through the hard week without anticipating the end of the story.

For one group, the Choir, it is a particular challenge. We rehearse the Easter music in the midst of Holy Week. That requires us to put a kind of emotional force field around us as we sing those joyous phrases. It's a necessary challenge because otherwise, we confuse the energy of Holy Week.

I received a lovely gift from **Bob Adamson**, one of Trinity's more senior members. He gave me his own copy of Handel's *Messiah*, an original octavo edition from Novello's in London. Bob's father bought it in Scotland for two shillings and sixpence (about a quarter). I will be honored to sing the *Hallelujah Chorus* out of it on Easter morning. Even though Bob can't get to church any more, he'll be present in that score. Thank you, Bob.

Peace, *Sharon +*

Spirituality Ministry

Trinity reaches out to seniors

Bill Gilpatrick and **Ruth Buell** are the dynamic duo of pastoral care visits, ever ready to take Communion to those who cannot get to church. They were asked to bring that ministry to the Hearth at Gardenside to bring Eucharist to the residents. As they met with the group that gathered, the idea of a regular Bible Study was raised and so a new initiative has been born. The group has asked to study the Easter story so Bill is drawing on his many years of regular Bible Study to organize such a class. Our thanks to Bill and Ruth for their willingness to serve.

Worship Ministry

Ministry Update

By Sandy Baldwin, Chair



At the last Worship Ministry meeting, part of the discussion involved active participation of the congregation during worship. As a result, it was decided to modify the way we present the gifts. We are now going to have the element bearers and the ushers give the elements (wafers and wine) and collection plates directly to the priest rather than to an acolyte or chalice bearer. This is a symbolic change which says we are worthy to present our gifts directly to the priest who is accepting them for God.

Continued on next page

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15th of the current month. Please submit hard copy to the office or e-mail **ajfreeman@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.

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Vestry and Council of Ministry members, see website.

Worship Ministry

A Moving Service For Good Friday

"I was there." This phrase introduces the ten dramatic readings that illuminate Good Friday in a poignant and profound way. In a darkened church, we will go on a journey from the cynical words of Pontius Pilate and the pain of Mary his mother, to the faith of Joseph of Arimethea as they share the events of the day that Jesus died and what he meant to them. Members of our congregation will step forward to embody these stories. In between each reading, we will sing a verse of *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?* giving each of us a deep moment to ponder for ourselves the horror of that Friday that we call Good. Please plan to attend this most holy moment, 7:00 pm.

Easter Music

By Ron Baldwin, Music Director



Pealing bells, roaring organ, trumpet fanfares, soaring choral alleluias, lustily singing congregation. Sounds like Easter at Trinity!

Easter Day, April 8, at both the 8:00 and 10:00 am Eucharists, the Trinity Choir and trumpeter extraordinaire, **Matt Montagna**, will offer special Easter music. Both services will

close with the singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*.

We realize there are people in our congregation who have been part of a high school, college, or community chorus that has performed the *Hallelujah Chorus*. We invite anyone who would like to sing, and will be attending the 10:00 am Eucharist, to join the choir in singing this classic piece during the closing congregational hymn. In order to be prepared with enough scores, please let me know by coming to the console after service, by April 1.

This year's "Hallelujah" will be even more glorious (and fun) than ever before!

Lector Training

Anyone who is interested in reading the lessons, or currently reading lessons, is invited to the church on April 21 @ 9:00 am for tips and guidance.

A new chalice

After supper he took the cup of wine... Our usual cup, or chalice, is made of silver. It is lovely and long a tradition in the church. However, it is most likely not like the simple cup that would have been used by Jesus and his friends at the Passover supper. This year, on Maundy Thursday that remembers our first celebration of the Eucharist, we will use a special Haitian wooden chalice made of wood that evokes a gift from Janet to Trinity from November as a Health Ministries mission to that most distressed country. The simplicity of the wooden chalice and paten conform beautifully to the humility of a wandering preacher and his friends who teaches the hospitality of the Lord's table.



by Jesus and Passover supper. This year, on Maundy Thursday that remembers our first celebration of the Eucharist, we will use a special Haitian wooden chalice made of wood that evokes a gift from Janet to Trinity from November as a Health Ministries mission to that most distressed country. The simplicity of the wooden chalice and paten conform beautifully to the humility of a wandering preacher and his friends who teaches the hospitality of the Lord's table.

Holy Week Services

Tuesday, April 3rd 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist (following worship the open choir practice of *Hallelujah Chorus*)

Wednesday, April 4th 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 5th 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar, Watch

Good Friday, April 6th 10:00- 11:30 am Children's Program; Noon Ecumenical Cross Walk; 7:00 pm Liturgy

Easter Sunday, April 8th 8:00 & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Christian Education Ministry

“We believe...”

One of the best parts of the *Confirm not Conform* program for our high school youth is the writing of their own interpretation of the Nicene Creed. To get to the point at which they can successfully do so, they must have begun to understand for themselves what they do believe.

It all started with asking them, “What have you been *told* to believe?” and then, “But what do you *actually* believe?” Those are often very different things. Since then, they have considered how they understand God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the church. They have been challenged to identify what qualities they find or hope to find in each.

The result is this beautiful statement of faith from **Jillian** and **Robert Denhardt**, **Julius Feniola**, **Adam Humphrey**, **Ryan Monico**, **Jack** and **Emma Pottenger**, and **Katelin Rowe**. They are proud to share it with you.

We believe in The Trinity.

We imagine that God is

A light that guides us in a dark world; the mason of humankind whose hands give us strength and compassion.

We see Jesus as

A messenger of peace, hope and love who was sacrificed for us. It is with deep, mixed emotions that we celebrate his life and remember his cruel death.

We feel the Holy Spirit as

A mystifying presence of solid, liquid and gas that glows and sparkles in our soul.

We are comforted

In a spiritual home that provides us a safe space with the freedom to inquire, pray, and explore our faith.

We desire

A world where everything and anything is possible.

We know that

One day, out of many, we will be one.

Amen.



A Special Good Friday Children's Service

April 6th, 10:00am-11:30am, Trinity Parish Hall

Bring your children for a Good Friday experience of story telling, crafts, feast and music. To bring this Holy weekend into perspective for our children, Trinity's church school teachers will be helping our youth understand the mystery of Easter and Good Friday. Adults are welcome with their children also. Talk to **Martha Monico** or **Jen Zehler** with any questions.

Bishop's Visit in June

On June 10, Bishop Laura Ahrens, will be with us. The young people of the *Confirm Not Conform* group will be confirmed, as a marvelous culmination of their deep and meaningful journey of faith. They will be supported by **Jen Zehler**, **Martha Monico** and **Rev. Sharon**, who have been their guides and companions this year, and by their adult mentors from the congregation. Wonderful friendships have begun and this group of Trinity kids have grown in ways they could not imagine. Now that's something to celebrate!

Outreach Ministry

Trinity Heads HomeFront Project in Branford

by Dottie Packer, Coordinator



The HomeFront Program is celebrating its 25th year. It is a community-based volunteer home repair program that provides quality of life repairs at no cost to homeowners in need. The Outreach Ministry has chosen to support HomeFront.

Currently, we have several skilled and unskilled members of Trinity who have volunteered to participate in this year's Branford Project. Other Branford churches are interested in participating. This is a one-day project scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 5th, 2012 from 7:30 am to 5 pm. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.

Learn more about the organization, also donating building materials and cash, at homefrontprogram.org

Thank you for a great breakfast!

By Maureen Shea, Coordinator

In March we cooked breakfast at the Community Dining



Room. These are the wonderful parishioners that stepped up and helped me at almost a moment's notice, complete in green finery in anticipation of St. Patrick's Day!

Left to right, they are: Audrey Hanniford, Maureen Shea, Peter Hayes, MaryAnn Allen (yes, that is her head in the back), Kathy Sanchez, Ted Paluha and Jack Hanniford

Trinity's Closet

By Dru Dodd, Coordinator



Trinity's Closet will be held Saturday, April 28th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. We will be setting up Friday the 27th in the Parish Hall, starting at 3:30 pm and will gratefully accept help from volunteers.

If you are cleaning out closets this spring we are collecting gently used, clean, sheets, blankets, towels, "summer" clothing, and new pillows. Also needed are personal items such as deodorants, toothpaste, men's razors, shampoos (men's too) and moisturizers. Also all kinds of cleaning liquids, laundry detergents, bleach, fabric softener sheets and stain fighters.

You may leave your donations in the undercroft hallway. If you can help with set up or on the day, please contact **Dru Dodd** at trinityscloset@trinitybranford.org

Join us for a night of fun and entertainment!!

By Steve Sharma, Coordinator

The Outreach Ministry is again sponsoring an International Dinner on Saturday, April 14th. The evening will start at 6 pm with a concert to be announced. Dinner will follow at 7 pm in the Parish Hall and all proceeds will benefit the Branford Fuel



Assistance program. Entrees from around the world will be provided by committee members and friends, and we are asking for dessert donations from attendees. The price will be \$15 per person with a family limit of \$40, and will be collected at the door. Attendance will be limited to 80 people. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Parish Hall or you can call the office.

Branford Community Foundation will match our funds! So bring your friends, and join us for great entertainment and great food!

Parish Life Ministry

Coffee Hour Cooking Crew Needed

By Peter Hayes, Chair



Coffee hour has always been a great social time, but when it's the third Sunday of the month it's the Ministry Coffee Hour. This means there's a wonderful feast and the chosen Ministry will be there to explain their mission, highlight accomplishments, elaborate on

future goals and recruit new members. We'd like to propose a 'Coffee Hour Cooking Crew' to free up the ministry members to concentrate on their display and talking with attendees, while the cooking crew focuses on the food. This crew will do any cooking required and provide the (healthy) goodies. **Jen Zehler** has recruited a crew from Godly Play to serve and help clean up afterward.

We are looking for anywhere from 2-3 people, or more, for each of the Sundays listed below (some dates may change due to Church requirements). This is a great opportunity for newcomers and parishioners to become more involved, meet new folks and generally have a good time (ask other cooking crews about my kitchen; I am not Gordon Ramsey!)

I'll have a sign-up sheet for the Ministry Coffee Hour Sundays in the Parish hall or please e-mail **parish-life@trinitybranford.org**. I'm happy to provide more information as needed.

MINISTRY COFFEE HOURS & SPECIAL SUNDAYS	
APRIL	APRIL 8TH EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL	APRIL 15TH
MAY	MAY 20TH
JUNE	JUNE 3RD TRINITY SUNDAY
JUNE	JUNE 10TH BISHOP'S VISIT
JULY & AUGUST	NO COFFEE HOURS
SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER 16TH
OCTOBER	OCTOBER 21ST
NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER 18TH
DECEMBER	NONE-CHRISTMAS STUFF

First Sunday Breakfast, April 1st

Mike Dodd, Crew Chief



This month's yummy menu is **Sally Monroe** muffins and scrambled eggs, juice, coffee, tea or milk. It's \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. Please RSVP to the office, or use the signup sheets in the foyer and Parish Hall, or email **firstsunday-breakfast@trinitybranford.org**

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 from 9:00 to 10:00 am in the undercroft, through the doors to the Parish Hall, down the stairs.

Welcome to Trinity!



Hi, I'm Cynthia - or as many kids around these parts call me, "John Frawley's mom." We moved to Granite Bay in October 2010 with our kitties, Delancey and Molly. When not in school at Sliney, John is likely to be mapping out his plans for becoming the Supreme Ultra-Lord of the Universe. Or playing video games.

Me? After a successful run as an on-air radio producer, divorce meant that I had to change my plans for world domination. Now, I work for a rabbi by day and freelance as a journalist/producer and as an advertising/marketing manager for an independent filmmaker. Our house is a place filled with laughter, cooking and playful sarcasm.

On the faith front, John and I are baptized Catholic. In early December, my lifelong frustrations with the Church reached the tipping point. Curiosity got me through the big red doors, and the incredibly warm reception kept me coming back. Well, that and the fact that for the first time, my son feels his own connection to faith. I'm thrilled to be "received" officially in June and we're both having the best time getting to know our new friends at Trinity.

Stewardship

Parish Life *continued* Trinity in Transition

Welcome to the world Aiden Pelatowski, **Betsey & Bill Bray's** grandchild, and Carter Starks, first child born to **Melanie & Chris Starks**.

Parishioners in mourning: **Mark and Marilyn McElrath** mourn the loss of Marilyn's father, Alphonse Caputo. Also, we remember **Earl Carlin** and **Kenyon Cook**. May their souls and the souls of all the departed rest in peace, amen.

And so long to **Helen Yocher**, a longtime Trinity parishioner and past member of the choir, who has moved to Maine.

Trinity Book Group

By Alison Barbaro, Coordinator



The Trinity Book Group is having its next gathering on Wednesday, April 4th at 7:00 pm in the Guild Room. All are welcome. The book selection is *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. This is a novel about black domestic servants working in white Southern households in the early 1960s, and their relationships with the children of the rich white families who employed them. But there's one white child who grows into a sensitive woman and writes a book that will blow the lid off the suffering endured by black maids in Jackson, Mississippi. For more information about the Trinity Book Group, call the office or email trinitybookgroup@trinitybranford.org

Stewardship of the Earth

The Earth Day 2012 campaign is designed to provide people with the opportunity to unite their voices in a call for a sustainable future and direct them toward quantifiable outcomes, using vehicles such as petitions, the Billion Acts of Green® campaign, and events. Event ideas may be found at earthday.org/2012 and State of Connecticut lists events at ct.gov.

Earth Day Network recognizes that faith leaders have been a driving force behind the most important and suc-

Leadership

cessful social movements. They encourage all people of faith across the globe to join them on Earth Day this April as they Mobilize the Earth™. Irejn.org.

The future will not be saved by our good intentions. It will be made better, or worse, only by our actions. What can you do to steward God's beautiful creation? Take a shorter shower, car pool, reduce electric consumption, turn down the thermostat a degree, reduce your use of plastic, be an organic gardener, etc. Together, there's much we can do.

Highlights of Table of Chairs Quarterly Meeting

Sherry Jones, Jr. Warden, Chair



Outreach Ministry The coffee hour for Outreach was a success! Many people signed up for projects. Welcome!! ~ Outreach survey results show parishioners prefer 50% of Outreach dollars to be used for local projects, 25% for regional projects (such as Columbus House), and 25% for international projects. ~ Trinity provided \$1,000 to AmeriCares for relief of this recent severe tornado disasters.

Spirituality Ministry Pastoral Care is offering "in reach" support, bringing meals/assistance to our members, like a meal for new parents, companionship and a meal while recovering from hospitalization.

Parish Life Ministry Kudos to **Jen Zehler's** coffee hour kid's crew. Well done everyone!! ~ The Mardi Gras Supper was fun and actually made money thanks to parishioners' good will offerings. ~ Sharon discussed the need to plan how we wish to be perceived and participate in the Branford Festival. **MaryAnn Allen** will be the liaison and a committee will be formed to assist with this project.

Worship Ministry At the last worship meeting it was decided that the elements and the offertory plate will be passed directly to the priest rather than using an acolyte as an intermediary.

Communication Ministry **Ann Freeman** attended a social media workshop for churches. ~ She's organizing a communication ministry team to help set policy and priorities. ~ The feasibility of a new membership directory will be explored this year.

Education Ministry Congratulations to **Jen Zehler**, now a certified Godly Play teacher.

Full TOC minutes may be found on trinitybranford.org. Remember to use the login.

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Ronald Baldwin, Organ Master &
Choir Director

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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
And AT&T Channel 99
7:00 PM Sundays

Wednesday

12:10 PM Eucharist & Healing
Service, Guild Room

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2012, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday; 1st Sunday breakfast	2	3 7 pm Holy Eucharist	4 12:10 Holy Eucharist 7 Book Group	5 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Holy Eucharist	6 Good Friday 10:00 Children; 12 Cross Walk; 7 Eucharist	7
8 Easter Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14 Int'l Dinner
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 9:00 Lecturer training
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27 Trinity Closet setup	28 Trinity's Closet
29	30					