



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Easter: April 21 to June 8, 2014

ROZ JONES: DRAWN INTO GOD'S MISSION

I have been a member of Trinity Church for 30 plus years. It is my joy and privilege to sing in the choir and serve as Flower Delivery Chair.

I consider Trinity to be my cherished spiritual home, offering me peace, comfort and a true sense of belonging to the Christian community.

Years ago, I experienced a very dark period in my life, during which I became very close to God. My twin sister, Robin, and my mother were both diagnosed with terminal cancer within a month of one another, and I



found myself being a caretaker for my entire family, particularly my sister, whose illness was very difficult, and a terrible blow for us all.

I did the best I could to help take care of her physical and emotional needs, while also comforting my parents who were devastated by this event. Robin would survive for only 3 months following her diagnosis, and I watched in agony as she slipped away from us, one day at a time. When the end was near, and she was comatose in Hospice, one of the nurses said that she felt Robin was holding on for some reason and was reluctant to let go. At that moment, I knew exactly why she had not yet left us. I turned to the nurse and said, "She's waiting to see her son (then 10) again. She wants to say goodbye one last time." Within an hour, her husband brought their son to her bedside where

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Ca. 1885-1889 Fabergé

Resurrection Egg

Made in St. Petersburg

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RECTOR'S LETTER



On Tuesday of Holy Week, I gathered with a great group of fellow clergy at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford for a renewal of our ordination vows. We donned our red stoles, red for the Holy Spirit, which was present and active at our ordinations and supports us in our ministries. We were reminded of all that we promised on that day. This paragraph from the ordination liturgy sums it up:

"As a priest, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you."

As I listened to these words again, it was the call to love that seemed to be all we ever needed to hear. As Paul said in the Letter to the Corinthians, no matter what graces you have, if you don't

(Continued on page 2)

DRAWN INTO GOD'S MISSION

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the **19th of May**. Please e-mail to **communication@trinitybranford.org**. 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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Roberta Rowe

A color issue is on **trinitybranford.org/news**

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Janet Daley, Dru Dodd, Terry Kron, Mary MacDonald,
Ed Monico, Kathy Sanchez, John Seibyl

Staff

Parish Administrator Jane Dougherty

Sexton Nancy Williams

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he kissed his Mom and said good-bye. Robin passed away an hour later, the night before our birthday.

Four months later, my mother lay dying at home as I held her hand, whispering to her how much I loved her. I was astonished to hear the attending nurse say, "You know, your mother seems to be holding on, not quite willing to leave us just yet. Do you have any idea why?" Once again, I immediately responded with an affirmation that came from a very deep place. I knew she was waiting for my father – who was sitting quietly with his thoughts in the living room – to come to her. I sat down next to him and asked him to say goodbye to my mother; that she was waiting for him to do so. Dad spent a few minutes alone with his wife and partner of 60 years, talking to her in hushed tones, as I waited in another room. Mom slipped away a few minutes later.

I feel blessed indeed that God chose to use me as His instrument not only once, but twice, enabling me to provide a loving gift to my beloved sister and mother. I will remain forever grateful for the presence of God's grace and love in my life.

You are invited to share your experience of having been instruments of God's work in the world. Contact Rev. Sharon or Ann Freeman, or submit in writing. We look forward to it!



(Continued from page 1)

RECTOR'S LETTER

have love, none of it matters. So, just as I reaffirmed in the presence of my bishops and colleagues, I now promise to you that I will do all that I am called to do here at Trinity, with love for you and our neighbors as the beginning and the end of everything.

Peace of Risen Christ to you,

Sharon +



WORSHIP MINISTRY



Sandra Baldwin
Chair

Trinity is fortunate to have a very dedicated group of parishioners who help weekly at the Sunday services. The Worship Ministry continues to add new members who help enhance our weekly worship services. We welcome:

David Smith



Acolyte Trainer

Deborah Bradley

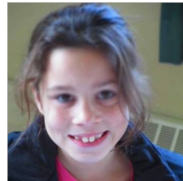


Chalice Bearer

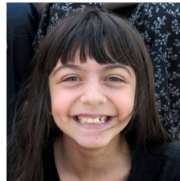
And joining the Acolyte team,



Alexis Brown



Olivia Campbell



Victoria Freeman

We always welcome new people to become trained to become acolytes, lectors, chalice bearers, ushers and choir members. If you are interested or would like more information, speak with Rev. Sharon or myself.

Easter Music By Ron Baldwin, Choir Director

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

Easter Day, April 20, at both the 8:00 and 10:00 Eucharists, instead of an organ prelude, a small group of singers from the choir will sing some Easter motets from the back balcony. During the service the Trinity Choir will offer special Easter anthems: *The Strife is O'er* by Henry Ley, and *Regina caeli* by Antonio Lotti. Both services will close with the singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*.



We realize that there are many people in our congregation who have at one time or another been a part of a high school, college, or community chorus that has performed the "Hallelujah Chorus." We invite any of you who would like to, and will be attending the 10:00 Eucharist, to join the choir during the closing congregational hymn, and come up and stand in with the choir in singing this classic piece. This year's "Hallelujah" will be even more glorious (and fun) than ever before!

New Choir Members

Recent additions to the Trinity Church Choir include:



Bass, Andy Campbell



Alto, Nancy Williams

Liz Grandel, a former singer with our group, has returned to our soprano section, after a hiatus of a few years. What wonderful additions to our ensemble!

We are looking for some additional members. If you regularly attend services at Trinity, have a good sense of musical pitch, can read musical notation (even just a little would be OK), have had a bit of choral experience, and enjoy singing, you might just be one of our newest members! If you are interested, please come by the organ console after the 10 o'clock Sunday Eucharist and make yourself known to me. I will answer any questions you might have about singing with our group.



Music at Trinity Update

We have had two marvelous concerts this season, and were excited about our third: The Cordell Trio, a New York-based string ensemble, and the Woodwind Quintet, from the New Haven Neighborhood School. Unfortunately, conflicts arose with several musician schedules; and so rather than trying to patch something together at the last minute, it was decided to postpone the Cordell Trio until the Fall. We are, needless to say, disappointed; but we look forward to next year. All input is welcomed as to what the next season will look like.



PARISH LIFE MINISTRY



Peter Hayes
Chair

Parish Life pushes ahead into spring and summer activities. It is time to begin thinking and planning for our recurring events. It won't be that long before it will be time for the Lobster Dinner, during the Branford Festival. I would like to see some of new faces volunteer for this and all of the other events Parish Life does during the year. I wish you all a glorious and holy Easter.

Trinity Transitions

On May 3rd Jennifer Venter marries Glenn Zavarskas. Trinity wishes you both all of God's blessings in your lives together.

We will miss long-time members Ruth Buell and Bill Gilpatrick. Both were active as Lay Eucharist Visitors. They have moved away for comfort and care.

We remember W. Lee Pierson, Bill Hendricks, and Susan Maurer. May their souls and all the departed rest in peace. Amen.

The Fair

Dottie Packer, Fair Coordinator



It's not too soon to organize this year's Fair, September 6th. There will be two meeting times to help anyone interested to come: **Sunday, April 27th, at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM, in the Guild Room.**

I am looking for Tag Sale and Silent Auction leaders. Please contact me or come to a meeting.

Last year's pre-Fair tag sale raised \$1,300, so we're doing it this year too! Mark your calendar for **June 28, from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**. Tag sale items are being collected now; and items that will sell on Craigslist will be picked up starting in May. Please call or email me at trinityfair@trinitybranford.org. We will continue accepting tag sale items through July and August for the September Fair. There are help yourself, preprinted donation receipt forms available in the Undercroft and the office.

We are looking for a new Fair Coordinator for 2015. I would like to have a Co-Chair this year, to mentor for a smooth transition next year. I've said it before: this is a cool job! To a large degree, The Fair is on auto pilot. There are guidelines, experienced parishioners, and me to help my successor be a success. Don't be afraid! Call me!

Save the Dates!

May 4, First Sunday Breakfast: build-your-own Southwest Breakfast wraps. Soft tortillas, served with scrambled eggs and an assortment of toppings--such as Monterrey Jack cheese, salsa, chopped black olives, sauteed peppers and onions, breakfast sausage, and guacamole--along with coffee and juice.

May 7, Trinity Book Group: *Dying To Be Me*, by Anita Moorjani. In this truly inspirational memoir, Anita Moorjani relates how, after fighting cancer for almost four years, she entered into an extraordinary near-death experience and realized, as a result of her epiphany on the other side, that she had the power to heal herself . . . and that there are miracles in the universe that she had never even imagined.

May 17th, Saturday, Branford Art & Craft Fair 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM, proceeds to Branford Cares. Volunteers needed. Parishioners who may be crafters are welcome to participate.

June 1, First Sunday Breakfast: Greek-style Yogurt with fresh fruit, topped with toasty Granola and an assortment of fresh baked scones, along with coffee and juice.

June 4, Trinity Book Group: *Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption*, by Thompson-Cannino, Cotton, and Torneo. Jennifer Thompson was raped at knifepoint. Her compelling identification of Ronald Cotton put him behind bars for eleven years, until a DNA test proved his innocence, and won his release. Jennifer and Ronald met face-to-face, and forged an unlikely friendship, demonstrating the profound nature of human grace, and the healing power of forgiveness.

June 14, 5th Annual New England Lobster Dinner. Mitch Rucinski and his lobster dinner crew will again offer this delicious meal during the Branford Festival. Reserve ahead please, to help with the lobster order. Contact lobsterdinners@trinitybranford.org. Proceeds to Branford Cares.

June 21, The First Legacy Society Gathering, will be a lovely lawn and croquet party at the home of Bill and Toni Schmitt on the waterfront. This is to acknowledge the Founders of the Legacy Fund and those who have included Trinity in their wills and estate plans.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY



Martha Monico
Chair

Adult Forum, Sunday, May 18, 9:00 AM

Chris George, son of long-time parishioner Charlsie Stearly, will talk about his work with refugee resettlement in Connecticut through Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS).

IRIS is a program of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, and is the local affiliate of Episcopal Migration Ministries, and the Immigration and Refugee Program of Church World Service. IRIS re-settles approximately 200 refugees each year. IRIS also provides some services to asylees and other immigrants. Currently, IRIS's refugee clients come from Afghanistan, Congo, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, and other countries.



Godly Play
By Jen Zehler

I wonder ...

One of the hallmarks of the Godly Play program is the wondering about the lesson that the children are asked to

do. Wondering questions are open-ended; they are not a test of comprehension or fact recall. The storyteller guides the wondering without blocking or adding his or her own interpretation. For example, the storyteller says, 'I wonder what part of the story you think was most important?' or, 'I wonder what part of the story is about you?' The children don't feel anxious about searching for the right answer, as often happens in academic school settings, because wondering is more of a creative process that draws both the lesson and the child's life experiences into the personal creation of meaning. Creating a safe space for children to share what they think is another important foundation of wondering. It is also important to allow silence to be a response. As the children become more comfortable with the stories and with each other, their ability to process their wondering deepens. It is one of my favorite parts of the Godly Play experience.

During the season of Lent, the younger children have been listening to the *Story of the Faces of Easter*. The complete lesson consists of a set of faces of Christ (illustrations on wooden

plaques), told over the course of Lent. The plaques highlight key events throughout Jesus' life. In the *Faces of Easter* story, the wondering questions shift from verbal responses to taking pieces from other stories and placing them next to one of the plaques. The children are asked, 'I wonder if there is anything in the room that can help tell more about the story?' The children make connections with previously heard stories, and may bring pieces from the stories of both the Old and New Testament. For example, on the first plaque there is a picture of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus; a child might bring Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus from the story of the Holy Family and put it next to the plaque. This experience is filled with its own sense of wonder, because what the children bring to the plaques changes and grows each year.

If you would like to know more about the Godly Play program, please come to a future adult forum to experience it for yourself. If you would like to come and share the experience first-hand in the Godly Play classroom, I invite you to contact me at godlyplay@trinityfranford.org

Snuggly Stories Family Event, Saturday, April 26, at 4:30 PM

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. However, Easter is also a season that lasts 50 days and ends on Pentecost Sunday. In order to emphasize Easter as a season, we decided to have our annual Snuggly Story Event during the season of Easter.



A donkey, praying hands, three coins, and a strip of leather... what do all these have in common? Come along with Benjamin and see. Families and their little ones are invited to a pajama party in the undercroft. The evening will begin with a Resurrection Egg treasure Hunt, followed by the beautifully illustrated story ***Benjamin's Box***, a fictional narrative of a young boy who lived in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. Each item Benjamin finds corresponds to one of the eggs.

A potluck supper will follow. Trinity will provide the chicken fingers and beverages. Please RSVP Jen Zehler @ godlyplay@trinitybranford.org if you can attend this fun family event. **Families are asked to bring an empty egg carton for each child that is attending.**



OUTREACH MINISTRY



Maryann Allen
Chair

A School for Kayimet

Great news! The Outreach Ministry proposed—and the Vestry agreed—that Trinity Church pledge \$10,000 to the building of the school in Haiti. The funds will be drawn from the accrued interest in the Outreach portion of the Trinity Fund. The members of the Outreach Ministry have chosen to put Trinity's name on the Food Pantry at the school. This space will allow Kayimet to receive distributions from the World Food Organization. With this contribution, we will touch the whole community.

The total raised so far is over \$20,000. We're 25% there!

A committee has been formed to further the work of fund raising for the school. Judie Cavanaugh has stepped up to help direct this attention. Remember, there are still opportunities to name a classroom after a loved one or someone who inspired you.

Trinity Begins A New Animal Care Ministry!

By Rodney Hayes, Coordinator

Perhaps you have read articles in *The Sound* and other media outlets regarding the work of the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter. The shelter houses numerous rescued animals of many types, and serves both Branford and North Branford. It relies on contributions of food and supplies, and is asking for help. We will add a basket for animal food to the baskets that collect human food, located behind the last pew at the back of the church. If you have been blessed with the love of a pet, we hope you can share your love of animals by making donations to the animal food basket as often as you can.

Some items for your consideration:

Bleach, paper towels, laundry detergent (high efficiency), garbage bags (large 45 gallon and kitchen size), Clorox wipes, baking soda, pig ears, cat litter (not scoopable), doggie 'poop' bags, rawhide chews, rabbit bedding (aspen), Kong Busy Toys, Yesterday's News litter (for critters), rabbit food, canned cat food, Hill's prescription diet YD (for thyroid), kitten food (canned or dry), new or used soccer balls or footballs, sensitive stomach dry dog food, senior-sensitive stomach hairball, cat toys, formula dry cat food, loop leashes (rope-style with guides), Freedom 'no pull' harness and leash sets (all sizes).

Thanks so much! juniorwarden@trinitybranford.org.

The Bake Sale Table Needs You!

More specifically, Outreach needs Trinity bakers to bake their best for sale at The Branford Festival, on **Saturday, June 14**. Every year we sell out! Please bring your donations to the Parish Hall on Friday evening, or to the baked goods table on Saturday morning. Thank you in advance.

Trinity's Closet: Help, Hope & Hospitality



Thank you for all your hours of time and care for our neighbors. *Lt-rt back:* Janet Hager, Rick Cain, Kathy Sanchez, Bill Holohan, John Hanniford; *Lt-rt mid:* Maryann Allen, Lisa Davis-Rucinski, Janet Daley, Dru Dodd, Audrey Hnniford, Joe Brummer; *lt-rt front:* Bobbe Otis, Jen Zehler

Minutes of Outreach meetings are posted on the parishioner Website. Check Friday's *Trinity In Touch* for a quick link, and keep up with all that's going on in Outreach.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Many people are owed extra thanks and appreciation for extraordinary time and effort during one of the church's busiest times of the year. Ron Baldwin, each member of the Choir, the ladies of the Altar Guild, the cast of Good Friday's *I Was There*, the volunteers on Work Day to spit and polish so Trinity sparkled, Jane, Ruth Knowlton (Easter flower remembrances), Jen Zehler and the Sunday School teachers' extra program.

And a round of applause goes to Rick Cain, who has been painting trim and doors throughout the Undercroft, for weeks! An overwhelming undertaking for one person—but focusing on one door at a time is proving to be a successful technique!



STEWARDSHIP ...

... Of Our Buildings

Church buildings are community treasures, not just for their beauty, but as meeting space for many community groups. We are called to be good stewards of our buildings, not only in how we care for them, but in how we make them available. They are a part of our treasure, put into our hands to use in a way that is pleasing to God, and to take part in God's mission of healing, growth and transformation. Here at Trinity we offer space to different Twelve Step groups, our scouting programs, a monthly quilting group, and most recently a monthly gathering of Compassionate Friends.

Compassionate Friends provides grief support for families after the death of a child of any age. There is no greater loss. Finding community with others who have been through it is a lifeline; and it is hope. We are proud to offer the use of our Parish Hall to Compassionate Friends. If you or someone you know has suffered such a loss, please share this information.

... Of Our Health By Martha Monico

Last fall, an online survey was sent to determine the interest level at Trinity for a healthcare ministry. These are the results of that survey. Of the 252 emails sent, 20% completed it. The typical respondents (60%) were female, between 40-60+ years old, who either worked full-time or did not work outside the home; most had a spouse or partner, with no children living at home.

- Education topics of interest are: healthy lifestyle topics, reducing risky behaviors and habits, and healthy aging. Objectives of most interest include: preventive self-care and spiritual practices for health and healing; providing identification of available resources to address healthcare needs; information on risks, benefits and outcomes of health care regimens.
- Areas of interest for health improvement include: stress management, body/mind/spirit connection, physical activity, good nutrition, and proper weight control.

Since this survey was analyzed, we have started a Saturday morning Tai Chi class open to all, and held an adult forum on nutrition from a naturopathic doctor.

We are working on a mission statement, goals and objectives. Ministry members include: Martha Monico, Kathleen Myers, Tren Myers, Cathy Seibyl, and Sue Wharfe. Others with special medical gifts who have offered to help when needed include Lois Lehr, Liz Melvin, Ed Monico and John Seibyl.

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

... Of Our Stained Glass Windows

Deborah Coombs, the artist of our beloved new Archie Hanna Window, was in town in early April to continue our project. She has designed patterns for the two small windows over the side red doors and the rose window above the recently installed one. The side windows will reflect the cloud patterns and the rose window will continue the motifs from the star portion of the main window. The rose window will be a restoration and updating of an existing window, within the same wood frame, which is in a state of decay. Eventually, all four windows will create a visual whole that enhances the beauty of our lovely white church.



ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

One of Trinity's many blessings has been the Archives Ministry of sisters Jeanne McParland and Winnifred Judge. Trinity is extremely grateful for their fastidious attention over many years. Now they feel it is time to mentor their successor(s). Archival duties are neither arduous nor time-consuming (an hour or so per week), and there are guidelines on how to do everything. Most importantly, Winnifred is interested in working with someone to pass along her knowledge and orient to the Archives Collection. Please contact the office if you are interested in helping to preserve Trinity's history.

Council of Ministries Restructuring

The Council of Ministries has functioned well for three years. But, since its creation, much has changed at Trinity. At the recent joint retreat of the Vestry and Ministry Chairs, it was determined that some of the categories of ministries needed to be rethought. A small committee was appointed to do just that; and a recommendation has been made to the Vestry. While this will not have any effect on any specific ministry's work, it will make things clearer from an organizational perspective, and allow Trinity to continue to do the work of ministry in the best way possible. The changes will be announced after the April Vestry meeting.

Columbarium Feasibility Study

A small group has been formed to undertake a Feasibility Study to see whether or not it is possible and practical for a columbarium to be designed and built at Trinity Church. Much more information will become available, and parishioner involvement will be needed once these basic questions are resolved.



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Ronald Baldwin, Organist &
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

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 21—MAY 31

APRIL

22 Earth Day

Vestry, 7:00 PM

26 Snuggly Stories, 4:30 PM

27 Pre-Fair meeting, 9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

MAY

4 First Sunday Breakfast, 9:00 AM

5 Columbus House, 4:00 PM

7 Trinity Book Group, 7:00 PM

10 Community Dining Room, 8:00-10:00 AM

11 Mother's Day

17 Branford Arts & Craft Fair

18 Adult Forum, 9:00 AM

20 Vestry, 7:00 PM

26 Memorial Day/Office Closed



JUNE

JUNE

1 First Sunday Breakfast

2 Columbus House

4 Trinity Book Group

8 Pentecost begins

13—15 Branford Festival—Bake sale

14—Lobster Dinners

15 Father's Day

17 Vestry, 7:00 PM

21 The First Legacy Society Gathering

28 Pre-Fair Tag Sale



Room location and a complete calendar may be found at,
trinitybranford.org/news/calendar