



# Messenger

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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August 2011

### A Gift from Louise Carlin

The Fair is coming!  
The Fair is coming!

Drop off your good quality tag sale items, buy your raffle tickets, contribute to the Silent Auction, volunteer, be there when the playhouse is built! The 104th is going to be the best Trinity Fair ever!

Last August, Trinity lost a loyal and loving presence in Louise Carlin. During her many years as a member of Trinity, Louise served as the Directress of the Altar Guild, and she and her husband Earl had been hosts for Trinity Galas at the Pine Orchard Club. They raised their two children here. Shortly after Louise died, we received word from the Probate Court that Louise had continued her giving to this place she loved. Trinity Church received a bequest of \$10,000 from her estate. The question was what to do with it, as it was an unspecified gift. Fortunately, the perfect place was already prepared.

In 1986, under the direction of The Rev. Bill Shiflet, The Trinity Fund had been created as part of a long-term strategy for the well-being of this parish. The Fund has five component funds so that gifts may be directed to various ministries. They are: Mission

and Outreach, Ministry Fund, Christian Education, Buildings and Grounds, and Unrestricted. An inaugural campaign raised initial funding, and six trustees were appointed to manage the fund and help it grow. The fund currently has \$170,000, including Louise's gift (which went into the Unrestricted Fund). These funds represent a portion of the Trinity endowments, all of which protect capital and make interest income available for ministry expenses throughout the year.

The Trinity Fund has been somewhat dormant in recent years, but with the election and appointment of a full complement of trustees, and the impetus of this new gift, we plan to share with the congregation and friends of this parish the presence of The Trinity Fund as a wonderful way of continuing stewardship and generosity through planned giving. To know more about this fund or about Trinity's finances in general, contact Rev. Sharon or Bill Baskin, Chair Finance Ministry.

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### From the Rector



#### Letter — My first year as CT clergy

The Diocese of Connecticut is a very different place from the Diocese of Los Angeles. To start

with, it's a size thing. The Diocese of Los Angeles is one of six dioceses in California and covers only six of the state's 58 counties. However, those six counties account for nearly 37,000

square miles. The entire state of Connecticut would fit inside Riverside County—with room left over for Rhode Island! In our 5,544 Connecticut square miles, we have around 175 churches; you can't go far without finding one. In Los Angeles you can drive for hours between the 145 congregations and to do so you may pass through mountains, deserts and coastline. Connecticut is the oldest diocese in the Episcopal Church, 100 years older than Los Angeles—very different histories.

Another big difference is our Bishop. Bishop Jon Bruno of Los Angeles is a force of nature; a former NFL linesman, Los Angeles beat cop, and finally priest and

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## From the Rector

(Continued from page 1)

bishop. He is larger than life. The Right Rev. Ian Douglas, who is nearly as new to Connecticut as I am, is a lifelong academic. They are both men of vision, but with completely different personae and approaches. I am particularly excited to be working with Bishop Douglas and to be a part of the work to which he is calling us as a part of God's mission here in Connecticut.

A new clergy in the Diocese, I took part in the required Fresh Start program which helped to introduce me to colleagues, who's who and what's what in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. It was very helpful and time well spent.

Since coming to Trinity last summer, I have been busy enough here and so, other than Diocesan Convention and some Clergy Days, I have not been involved in much outside of the parish. Recently though, I had a couple of opportunities to do some work with other congregations. First I served as a mock interview candidate with St. David's in Gales Ferry. It was a lot of fun to work with their Search Committee as they are approaching the interview process as they look for a new rector. My experience here was helpful to them and they all send their gratitude for Trinity's excellent search process which is apparently now serving as a model for other congregations!

Two weeks ago, Peter and I went down to Bridgeport where I filled in with the Haitian congregation. There are not many clergy in the diocese who can celebrate in French so I was happy to get to practice mine and to be of service.

Only time and the Holy Spirit will tell how I will be drawn into the life of this Diocese. One of the good things about being an Episcopalian is that we are all part of something larger than ourselves and our parish churches. It is my prayer that we will take full advantage of the web of relationships that draw us into richer fellowship within our church and the world.

Peace to you,

*Sharon+*

Whoever renders service to many, puts himself in line for greatness—great wealth, great return, great satisfaction, great reputation and great joy.

*Jim Rohn*

## Spirituality Ministry

### Planning For End-of-Life Issues

A three-part program is to be offered to church members in October, organized around end-of-life issues. The first session would be an orientation by Rev. Sharon and a presentation on hospice care by Bob Barnett. The second session would include presentations by a lawyer, a funeral director, and a financial planner. The last session would be a workshop, using the "Survivor's Guide" (a workbook previously used in a similar workshop at Trinity), documents from the State of Connecticut and a funeral planning document from the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. The first and third sessions would be offered both during business hours and in the evening or Saturday, and the second would be offered on one weekday evening or weekend. Watch for dates to be announced

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month. Please submit hard copy to the office or e-mail [ajfreeman@comcast.net](mailto: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 our editor. Editorial rights are reserved for clarity and to fit space constraints.

#### Communication Ministry Contributors

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Mark McElrath, Senior Warden  
Kris Lockwood, Junior Warden  
Regis Conlon, Treasurer  
Roz Jones, Clerk of the Parish

**Vestry and Council of Ministry** members, see website.

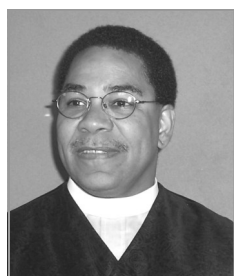
## Worship Ministry

### Worship Ministry Dinner and Meeting

By Sandy Baldwin, Chair

On Tuesday, August 30 at 6:00pm, all parishioners are invited to a pot luck dinner followed at 7:00 pm by a discussion/brainstorming session about worship at Trinity. The discussion will focus on the seasons of the church year and what worship looks like during each season. It will be a time to ask questions about why certain changes have occurred, as well as express your likes and dislikes, and hear other people's opinions. You will have an opportunity to express your thoughts about meaningful worship and what needs to be present for you to grow spiritually. A healthy discussion will help everyone to grow spiritually. I encourage all parishioners who have an interest in worship to attend and enter into the discussion.

This is not a decision making meeting. The Worship Ministry members will meet at a later date to consider your comments and suggestions and to discuss any tweaking of the services. Watch your Sunday bulletin and e-mail for more details. Please RSVP your attendance to the office by Friday August 26th. I hope to see you on August 30.



### The Rev. Harlon Dalton

At Sharon's invitation, I'd like to briefly introduce myself to you. Two of the most important facts to know about me are that I am the son of a plumber and a child of the sixties. I was born in Cleveland, Ohio but raised mostly in Denver.

I went "back East" to college, graduating from Harvard in 1969. Unlike most college-bound students today, I had never seen the campus before arriving there for orientation, and had no real sense of the school's history, traditions or character. After graduation, I traveled abroad for a year, and then enrolled in law school at Yale. I had no intention of becoming a lawyer. My ambition was simply "to pick up some skills to further the revolution." (I told you I'm a child of the 60's).

I did, however, practice law, first as a public interest lawyer in New York and then for the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. But I returned to Yale Law School to teach, and while I took an early retirement from the

university, I continue to teach at the Divinity School and serve as a spiritual director.

In the mid-1980's I returned to church after a hiatus of nearly 20 years. For reasons having more to do with romance than spirituality, I joined an Episcopal congregation rather than the Baptist church of my youth. In the mid-1990's, I began responding to a quiet but insistent call to ordained ministry. For a decade (beginning in advance of my ordination in 2003), I served as the part-time Associate Rector of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul & St. James in New Haven, working alongside the rector, Barbara Cheney. Given the shared nature of our ministry, I resigned from St. PJ's when Barbara retired in 2010. My resignation from the parish became effective the same month as my retirement from Yale, resulting in a life without institutional props for the first time in 30 years.

I briefly served as an interim at St. Ann's, Old Lyme, before embarking upon a purposeful Sabbath in order to discern what God has in store for me next. And I have settled into Trinity Branford as my parish home because my soul is fed here, and the congregation appears to be open-hearted and on a spiritual journey.

Over the years I have been involved in the New Haven community in a variety of ways, and in 2007 was awarded an Elm/Ivy Award by the mayor of New Haven and the President of Yale for my contributions to the city. I have also been significantly engaged on the national level, including as an ACLU board member and a Senatorial appointee to the National Commission on AIDS. I actively participate in the councils of the church, and currently serve on the Diocesan Standing Committee, Program & Budget Committee, Commission on Ministry (Committees One and Two), and Mission Discernment Initiative Working Group.

On a more personal note, my wife, Jill Strawn, and I will celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September. She is a professor of nursing steeped in holistic medicine. During the summers, you can often find us paddling kayaks on the salt ponds of Rhode Island, or scanning its marshes with binoculars. Among my other avocations, music making reigns supreme. I sing in a gospel choir and acquire (and sometimes actually play) musical instruments. No concerts are forthcoming; just lots of joyful noise.

For those of you wondering what ever happened to my revolutionary fervor, it has not abated. However, these days the revolution is not about political theory or social upheaval. It is about the utterly transformative work of living into the kingdom of God. It is about the radical practice of loving one another into righteousness. It is about proclaiming, living, and being the Good News. It is a continuation of a revolution that began 2,000 years ago in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Continued on page 7*

## Parish Life Ministry

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### Parish Comings and Goings

#### Births

We celebrate Claire Ella Dinkin 5th granddaughter and 6th grandchild for **Ron and Sandy Baldwin**, and Caitlyn Olivia Strickland, the first grandchild for **Terry and Patti Kron**. We also welcome baby Kellen Blanchette, second child of Katy and Christopher Blanchette.

#### Baptisms

On the Feast of Pentecost, June 12<sup>th</sup>, six children were welcomed into the Body of Christ through Baptism. We look forward to being their faith community. We welcome: **Tristan Douglas Barhorst, Mia Capri Esposito, Alphonse Joseph Florenzano, Mason James Garea, Genevieve Grace Longobardi, and Matthew Edmund Perdo.**

#### Wedding

On June 25<sup>th</sup> **Kristin Nelson and Derek Poundstone** were married by Rev. Sharon and Kristin's uncle, The Rev. David Platt from Deer Park, KY. Kristin, a native of Branford, teaches at Walsh Intermediate School, and Derek is a police officer in Naugatuck and also competes around the world in Strong Man Competitions. We look forward to having them as a part of the Trinity community when their busy schedules have them in town.

#### So long! We're glad you were here!

This summer we will be saying goodbye to some of our faithful members. In July **Stewart, Emily** and little **Elisabeth Moore** will be moving to New Jersey. Stewart has served as one of our lectors, bringing a dramatic and meaningful approach to Scripture. Emily has given her gift of music as a fine alto in the Choir. Elisabeth has graciously shared her parents with us.

**Dick and Lee Bauerfeld** will complete their retirement in August as they move to Redding, CT, to enjoy nearby family. They have been steadfast worshippers at the 8:00 service and loyal participants in the First Sunday Breakfast. Dick recently served as the Grand Marshall for the Branford Memorial Day Parade.

We will miss them and pray them on their way.

#### In Memoriam

**Janet Fleece's** husband, William Fleece, Sr. and **Norman Allen**. May their souls and those of all the departed rest in peace.

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### Welcome to Trinity!

**June Chittick** and her husband Bob lived in Westport for 45 years and then moved to Guilford where they attended Christ Church. Now a widow, June has joined her daughter, Jennifer, who lives in Branford. June has two married daughters, Cynthia and Deborah, who live with their families in California and Montana respectively. She has three grandchildren of college age or older.



June worked for 25 years in human resources before retiring from Singer Company World Headquarters and a college financial advisory company, The Common Fund. She is a graduate of the University of Vermont and enjoys reading, cooking and knitting. June was baptized an Episcopalian. She served on the Altar Guild at Christ Church and feels privileged to now serve on Trinity's Altar Guild.

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**Dottie Packer** was born and raised in Branford, baptized Lutheran. At age 12, she remembers telling her parents she wanted to be a Navy nurse, so it was no surprise when she enlisted in the United States Navy straight out of high school. She served eight years as a Hospital Corpsman, receiving advanced training as a

Cardiopulmonary Technologist, and came off active duty long enough to join the Naval Reserves while completing her BSN from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Dottie returned to active duty as a commissioned officer in the Navy Nurse Corps, and went on to receive a Masters Degree in Education from Central Michigan University. She has served in various leadership roles, both in the field of nursing, and education and training, specializing in critical care.

Dottie retired from the Navy after serving 25 years to care for her mother and twin brother. She loves retirement, traveling, biking, tennis, and cooking. In her spare time, she does pet sitting and is a member of the Animals Awareness/Compassion Club and Martin Luther King Committees. She has volunteered at several local non-profit organizations, veteran groups and churches. For Trinity, she has taken on the task of running the tag sale at the Trinity Fair this year.

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## Parish Life continued

**Melanie and Christopher Starks** moved to the East Haven shoreline in 2008. Melanie originates from New York and Christopher from Kansas. They found each other as undergraduates at Dartmouth, New Hampshire. While there, Melanie, a baptized Episcopalian, served as a student minister at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover. Today she is an attorney at Connecticut Legal Services in New London, specializing in special education and juvenile justice. She was appointed by Governor Jodi Rell to sit for a two-year term as the attorney representative on the State Advisory Council to the Department of Children and Families. Recently she was appointed to the Board of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law.



Melanie is the oldest of four children, with two brothers in NY and a sister who practices law in DC. Christopher is in his final year of urologic surgery residency at Yale. His twin brother also practices law in DC, and an older brother is a fellow at Cleveland Clinic. The couple enjoys travel, cooking (we hear Christopher is skilled on the grill!) and relaxing on the beach. Melanie gives back to Dartmouth by serving as an alumni interviewer for those seeking admission. Christopher was baptized and raised Methodist. He and Melanie were married in the Episcopal Church, and as a couple they have chosen Trinity as their church of worship.



This jar has to be full of sold raffle tickets by Sept 10, Trinity Fair. Don't wait til the last minute to buy one...or two...and please, won't you take a few tickets to sell? Please see Sharon or Jane.

This prize is either a playhouse or a shed.

Thank you!

## Strictly Social – Thimble Islands Cruise

Once again this popular social activity has been organized for the last Sunday in August, from 6:00pm-8:00 pm. Seating is limited to the first 30 lucky people! Everybody makes an hors d'oeuvre to share, takes their own refreshment (you can share that too) and enjoys good food and good company. It's a great way to cool off, catch up with old friends and make new ones. Please contact Gina Eggert at gpeggert@comcast.net to reserve your seat, **no later than July 31st**. The cost is \$16 pp and payment must be made by **August 15th**.

## Christian Education Ministry

*Confirm not Conform* is an exciting confirmation program that Trinity will introduce in the fall for our senior high school students. It goes far beyond asking young people to memorize the Nicene Creed and a few scripture verses. This is a thoughtful and thought-provoking process by which they will consider what they believe, not just what they have been taught.

There will be opportunities to visit other religious traditions and make visits to marvelous places like the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. By the end of the nine months, they will be able to make an informed choice about their relationship with Trinity, the Episcopal Church and Christianity. Rev. Sharon will be the primary teacher for this nine-month program with the help of **Martha Monico**, the Chair of the Education Ministry. In June, youth and parents met to hear about Confirm not Conform. Any who were not able to attend can meet with Rev. Sharon and receive the materials. All of the young people and their families will be asked to make a commitment, in the form of a signed covenant about participation and worship. This is a serious program for the development of a serious faith—and our youth are worth it!

*Education For All Ages* is a monthly experiment in parish-wide education. One Sunday a month, people of all ages will come together for dinner and then break up into groups to take on the same topic, presented for each age. Our first gathering (date TBA) in the fall will center on the Eucharist. Our guest presenters will be **Emily Perow** and **Linda Snyder** from Missioners for Formation from the Diocese of Connecticut. This program has been held in several places around the diocese to great acclaim. Don't miss it!



## Administration Ministry

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### Mutual Review

By Sandy Baldwin and Mark McElrath

Does it seem possible that one year ago we were anticipating the arrival of Sharon and Peter? We had such fun following their trek eastward as they shared their cross country vacation. We have learned a lot about each other in their first year, and now, according to Search guidelines, it is time to review progress towards our expectations of each other as they were published in our Parish Profile.

### Parish Goals

- 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 support the building of a program church.
- A parish that welcomes different people and ideas.
- An active and committed vestry.
- A strong music program, mission 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.

On Saturday, August 20, the vestry, search committee, nominating committee, Sharon and our consultant, Rev. Greg Whelin, will meet one more time to discuss this past year. We invite your thoughts to be included in that process. Please talk with or email either:

Mark McElrath, [mmcelrath@myofi.com](mailto:mmcelrath@myofi.com) or 860-575-0114

Kris Lockwood, [sirkwood@aol.com](mailto:sirkwood@aol.com) or 203-483-7725

Sandra Baldwin, [sandrab1947@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrab1947@yahoo.com) or 203-208-0810

Mike Freeman, [mcfreeman2@yahoo.com](mailto:mcfreeman2@yahoo.com) or 203-415-2610

### Leadership Notes

By Mark McElrath, Senior Warden



#### Building and Grounds

We are wrapping up the exterior painting of the church as we repair some areas with previously undiscovered rot. This project was funded by the restoration fund and growth/income from the Dese Trust fund which is dedicated to the maintenance of the church.

The second project is the installation of air conditioning in the Rectory. This completes the Rectory updates begun in 2010. This project will also be funded from growth/income from the Dese Fund. The final cost for this project will be \$22,000-25,000. Part of this expense includes needed electrical upgrades. One of the many things I learned during the Search process was that having a Rectory was a great advantage in recruiting candidates. It is an asset that we must maintain/improve. Both of these projects were initiated in 2010, were competitively bid, approved by your Vestry and shepherded by Mike Freeman, Jr. Warden and currently continued by Mike McGuinness, Chair Building & Grounds Ministry. I thank them both for their service to Trinity.

Earlier in the year, Mike McGuinness, Mike Freeman, Sandy Baldwin and I conducted an inspection of the buildings listing maintenance items large and small. Mike McGuinness and I will have a detailed list including budget estimates in a Master Plan for the annual meeting.

#### Finance

Bill Baskin and the Finance Ministry members are conducting a complete review of all Trinity finances including the Trust funds. While this work is ongoing my goal is to have a complete breakdown of each fund, including activity and their intended use, published in the next annual report.

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## Outreach Ministry

By Kim Humphrey, Chair

The Lobster Dinner and Bake Sale at the Branford Festival were a big success thanks to the hard work and leadership of **Mitch Rucinski** and **Steve Sharma**. They can't say thank you enough to all the volunteers who helped with setup, cleanup, cooking, serving, staffing the tent, baking, etc. Of the \$1,000 raised, bake sale proceeds go to Branford Fuel Assistance and Alexa Rucinski's mission trip to the Dominican Republic, and Lobster Dinner proceeds are still being decided.

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## Finance Ministry

### Shepard Fund Update

By Kris Lockwood, Junior Warden

The Shepard Scholarship Fund drew 11 applicants this year and for the first time applicants were asked to submit an essay entitled "What impact Trinity Church has had on my life." The essays received were thoughtful, insightful and sometimes emotional. **Alyson Humphrey** (pictured below) created a wonderful acrostic.

Each applicant will receive a check and the letters of congratulations will be going out soon. Trinity should be proud of all the applicants and feel blessed that they are part of the Trinity family.



*"The past 18 years of my life I have been a part of the Trinity community. I am a strong believer that this parish has shaped me into the person I am today. My life at Trinity Church has paved the road for the rest of my life. Due to the compassion Trinity has taught me, I plan on continuing God's work in my adult life."*

**T**ought me the value of giving back to others.

**R**elationship strengthened with God.

**I** realized my calling to help less fortunate kids.

**N**ew friendships developed.

**I** felt the sense of community from the Trinity parish.

**T**eaching kids about God.

**Y**outh group trip to St. PJs opened my eyes to another world.

**C**onfirmation class expanded my understanding of God.

**H**elped local kids have a better summer by creating summer fun buckets.

**U**nderstand the power of prayer.

**R**ealized this is my spiritual home.

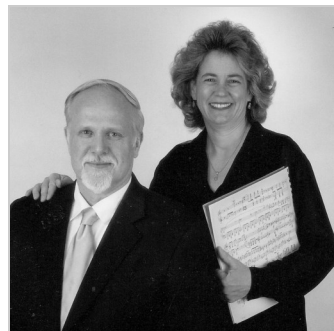
**C**aring for Angel Tree families.

**H**ad fun at the Missions Committee/Outreach events.

Good luck in college—we sure will miss you!

## Worship/Music Ministry continued

### Sharing Their Gifts Brings Joy to Trinity



**Diane Hull, M.Mus and Ed Hull, DMA**, say they grew up at a time when life was well suited to learning a musical instrument. There were fewer distractions to the necessary discipline of five hours a day of practice, every day, from age 13 to 24. Diane recalled, "The first day I didn't practice was the day after I completed my

masters' degree in music." When you are born with extraordinary musical gifts such as Ed's voice and Diane's piano playing, it's hard to live life any other way, yet supporting independence and raising four children on a life of music hasn't been easy. Today they reflect and say it all worked out well. They taught and inspired students for more than four decades, created joy for many others, and raised their four children—Cameron, 32, Vanessa, 29, Justin, 27, and Patrick, 26—to be highly educated people with strong (non-musical) careers, but the gene pool did ensure their children would have their own musical gifts.

Ed commented, "Diane and I have interesting coincidences in our lives. We grew up in Binghamton, NY, although I was twelve years ahead of Diane; we attended different high schools but received bachelor degrees in music from Syracuse University, mine in voice and Diane's in piano; and we shared the same dream of teaching in a college." They enjoyed some of that dream but actually met when Ed found his way to NY to be an opera oratorio singer and Diane attended the Park Avenue Methodist Church where Ed was the soloist. They married and moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where Ed earned his Dr. of Musical Arts and Diane earned her 'MOM' with the births of three children. But Tennessee was hot and humid, so they came to Branford as Co-Ministers of Music at the Congregational Church, and also had their fourth child.

They have taught, directed, accompanied or performed at many local and prestigious CT institutions, but the greatest fulfillment for Ed was 20 years of teaching in the inner city schools in Bridgeport. Now retired, he entertains nursing home residents throughout the area, and coaches a few gifted voices. Diane's greatest love is teaching children to play piano in the Neighborhood Music School, New Haven. She gratefully remembers a teacher inspiring a 13-year-old girl and vows she'll never stop teaching! She's also the Branford Land Trust's osprey population guardian.

Diane was baptized Congregational and Ed Presbyterian. The Episcopal Church offers them the *via media*, the middle way. They enjoy Trinity's music program and the friendliness of the parishioners, so Trinity has become their church family. Trinity is truly blessed with their presence, and we thank them for sharing their gifts.

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The Rev. Sharon Gracen, Rector

Ronald Baldwin,  
Organ Master & Music Director

Parish Office 203-488-2681  
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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 Sunday

#### **Wednesday**

12:10 PM Eucharist & Healing  
Service, Guild Room


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Send address changes to above address.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## August 2011, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 last day to sign up for the Thimble Islands Cruise!	2 Rome to Canterbury 7:00 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 last day to pay for the TI cruise!	16	17	18 Table of Chairs, 7:00 pm	19	20 Mutual Review
21	22	23	24	25	26 RSVP due for Worship Dinner meeting	27
28 Thimble Island Cruise	29 Back to school!!!	30 Worship Dinner Mtg 6:00 pm	31			