



# Messenger

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

August 2014

### IT'S ALL ABOUT THE 107TH FAIR!

#### 🎵 Tradition! Tradition! 🎵



**Fair Coordinator  
Dottie Packer**

*trinityfair@trinitybranford.org*

On **September 6th, 2014**, we continue a tradition started more than 100 years ago — hard to believe! I am sure the spirit and intent of the Fair is the same: collectively, parishioners create a fun event to which the public is invited, and together everyone supports the enduring ministries of Trinity Church. Some parishioners prepare for months, others help on the day, still others donate goods to be sold, and—importantly—others attend and buy. This is our church family tradition. Which part will you play?

The Team Leaders make this Fair happen automatically. Many of them have been in place for a while now. They know what to do, and can be counted on every year to do their thing. We owe them a great deal of gratitude. At the same time, if this traditional fundraiser is to sustain itself into the future, sharing and mentoring has to happen now. We need as many folks involved as possible this year.

This is **your** Fair. This is a church event that needs every member's support. All hands on deck! Thank you!



### FAMILY TRADITIONS



After Hurricane Irene came to town in 2011, Trinity hosted a spaghetti supper for people without power and no hot meals. Then Hurricane Sandy blew in the next year, and we did the same thing. One family showed up that evening and said, "We're back; it's a

tradition now! If there's a hurricane, we come to Trinity!" There are other families whose traditions have been supported by Trinity. Children have had presents to open on Christmas morning because their families were recommended to us by Angel Tree and the Branford Counseling Center.

One of the things that I loved learning about when I first came to Trinity was how many families had been here for generations. Not only was the church an historic place, but it had special family histories as well. This is a place of special celebrations, baptisms, marriages, and final

goodbyes. As such, we have touched families from all over. We live in family memories and lore.

For more than 100 years the Trinity Fair has been a tradition on the Branford Green. There are all kinds of stories about pony rides and dinner dances at the country club: the Fair has been many things. It is a fund raiser; it is a fun raiser; it is gentle evangelism and hospitality. Every year I see young families coming for pancakes, face painting, peach shortcake, and stuffed animals in the tag sale; and I realize that a family tradition can be started at any moment. Last year, kids learned about a labyrinth, and saw generosity laid out on the lawn. Perhaps a seed was planted for a tradition of compassion and giving.

Traditions connect us to our past and weave us together for the future.

Peace,

*Sharon+*

## VOLUNTEERING IS GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month. 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.

### Messenger Contributors

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Mary McCarthy, Roberta Rowe

A color issue is on [trinitybranford.org/news](http://trinitybranford.org/news)

### Trinity Leadership

Senior Warden Mark McElrath

Junior Warden Rodney Hayes

Parish Clerk Ellen Shirey

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Kathy Sanchez, John Seibyl

### Council of Ministries

Sandy Baldwin, Bill Baskin, Joe Brummer, Steve  
Carlson, Ann Freeman, Peter Hayes, Mike  
McGuinness, Martha Monico, Cathy Seibyl

### Staff

Parish Administrator Jane Dougherty

Sexton Nancy Williams

We have all known people who hesitate to get involved in things. It always ends up costing something. What they often overlook is a powerful spiritual law; you almost always get more back than you give.

To volunteer is to give of yourself. The church is mostly a volunteer organization that could not exist without the freely given gifts of time that produce our worship, our pastoral care, our outreach into the world, and so many more ministries. It is rare to hear someone who does not describe this phenomenon after helping with Trinity's Closet, or serving dinner at Columbus House, or singing in the choir. They always say that they got more out of taking part than they put into it. That more can be new friendships, fulfillment, just plain feeling good, and a sense of having done good work for God's mission.

The Fair is no different. It is certainly a lot of work; but by the end of the day, so much good will have happened that you will be glad that you helped out. This year, we are as organized as a church fair can possibly be. Work schedules with 2-hour shifts, great team leaders, and the perks are terrific. Trinity needs a little bit of your time and wants to give you lots in return. How about it?

The schedule of who's working where and when will be posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall Foyer. Vacancies will be clear—just add your name. Sign up early, so you have the most options! If we don't hear from you, expect to receive a personal invitation from volunteer recruiters. If you can't commit before the day, just show up and contact Ann Freeman at the Farmer's Market table to find out where you are needed. Ann is the Volunteer Coordinator for this year. Thank you!



To ensure everyone's privacy and security, personal phone numbers and e-mails are not listed in *Messenger*, since each issue is available on the Trinity website. Frequently used contacts have alias emails (aliasname@trinitybranford.org), which are redirected to the email of the person in charge. In the absence of an alias name, use the membership directory for contact information. So two things: (a) make sure your contact information is current, and (b) if you need a reminder on the username and password, either email **communication@trinitybranford.org**, or contact the office. Better yet, download the CTRN Online Church Directory app onto your smart phone. We find it very convenient and easy to use — your new church best friend for instant communication!

## OUTREACH: LABYRINTH

## TAG SALE



**Team Leader  
Bob Barnett**  
(laying out the labyrinth)

The cans of food are beginning to line the inside walls of the church, but we need to fill to the front, and stack them two-high, in order to make our goal. Last year's count to beat is 1,860, so keep 'em comin'!

In order to build a seventh circuit design, the labyrinth is being moved onto the Green proper. It will take time Friday evening to move cans from the church to the Parish Hall. The morning of the Fair we move the cans out of the Parish Hall and place them on the prepared layout. All hands are needed in place by 7:00 AM. To volunteer, please contact me, or add your name to the list on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall Foyer. Thank you in advance!



*Even Ben helped!*



## JEWELRY TABLE



**Team Leader  
Lisa Davis-Rucinski**

Now is the time to comb through your jewelry box; and if you haven't worn it in two years, please donate it to the Jewelry Table! Assistance is needed in two ways:

- Come share in the fun of jewelry pricing at my house on Tuesday evenings, **August 12th** and **August 26th** from 7:00-9:00 PM.
- Volunteer for the 10:00 AM -12:30 PM slot or 12:30-2:30 PM slot the day of the Fair.

I look forward to meeting new people.



**Temporary Team  
Leader  
Dottie Packer  
(and Assistant)**  
[trinityfair@trinity-branford.org](mailto:trinityfair@trinity-branford.org)

Thank you all for the tag sale donations! We are accepting donations of quality items until the day of the Fair.

We cannot accept baby strollers and car seats, due to recall issues. Also, no books, clothes, TVs, or broken items.

Urgent! The Tag Sale is in serious need of angels. Since this is one of the top financial earners, this is a problem we have to solve. From one who's done this, it's actually quite a study in sociology! People are serious about tag sales. Collectors, hoarders, disadvantaged, bargain hunters, starting out in life, ever-hopeful treasure seekers—it's an amazing study in treasure hunting. Last year, a coach load of Asian tourists pulled up, and seriously loaded the bus!



Help is needed with setup on Friday night, and work two-hour shifts on Saturday. You can contact me to volunteer, or add your name to the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall foyer. I would personally appreciate a volunteer Team Leader, since I need to be available to everyone, everywhere. The TL acts as a point of contact—simple. Who will be a Trinity angel?

Send your excess plastic supermarket bags and cardboard boxes our way. Customers can take home their treasures a little more easily.

Thank you in advance!





## Food, Glorious Food!

### BREAKFAST, 7:00 AM -11:00 AM



**Team Leader  
Mitch Rucinski**  
(lovin' those blueberry  
pancakes!)  
[lobsterdinner@trinity-branford.org](mailto:lobsterdinner@trinity-branford.org)

It's never too early to start thinking about the Fair—especially the breakfast. In keeping with tradition, and tradition it is, this breakfast goes back generations. With iconic family names that were involved in the breakfast—such as Calabrese, Rowan, and Dodd—it has to stir fond memories. This year will be no exception.

Saturday morning from 7:00 AM -11:00 AM, we will be serving blueberry pancakes and sausages, along with coffee and juice. And, returning by popular demand, homemade blueberry sauce, with whipped cream as an optional topping. Price will be \$6.00 per person. Child portions are available.

Anyone interested in being part of this time-honored tradition, can contact me.

### LUNCH, 11:00 AM—2:00 PM

**Team Leader, Peter Hayes** (far right)  
[parishlife@trinitybranford.org](mailto:parishlife@trinitybranford.org)



As *Messenger* goes to print, the Fair is only five weeks away. It is time for me to firm up my lunch crew. We had a ball last year, and I have no reason to believe this year will be any different. As usual I can use help. I would really like to have a 3 or 4 person crew just for clean up. (2:00 PM Saturday).

Lunch itself will be a carbon copy of last year, with hot dogs and burgers. Both will be available with cheese and/or chili. Assorted soft drinks and chips can be added to your order. If you have other ideas for lunch, please let me know.

If anyone has a **really good/reliable cooler**, one that will keep frozen food frozen, please contact me.

### BAKE SALE



**Team Leaders  
Chris Baird and  
Sue Rowan**

#### Make a Memory

“Nothin’ says lovin’ like somethin’ from the oven.” So said the Pillsbury Doughboy, and he was right. Cakes and pies, cookies and crullers, all taste so good that for centuries we have made them to celebrate holidays, to welcome new neighbors, and to comfort the grieving. Our Bake Table is the best bake shop in town! The contributions have been wonderful; and that, of course is, where it all begins. The response last year was overwhelming, making it a wonderfully successful year. We were very grateful.

This year’s Fair theme—*Family Traditions*—is right up our alley. We would be so delighted to find Grandma’s Sour Cream Cake, or My Home-Ec Class Muffins, on the table. Have you a memory to share with us? A brand new recipe would be just as great; traditions have to start somewhere. We appreciate whatever is presented to us, as we know the time and effort it takes to bake.

Please clearly label your goods, especially those that contain nuts. We welcome gluten free and sugar free items.

The second way to help the bake sale is to work behind the table on Fair day. The bake sale table is friendly, folksy and fun. If it appeals to you, please do call or e-mail either of us. You’ll never be left alone; and we will show you all the ropes, although there isn’t that much to learn. New members are so welcome.

The last way to help is to come to the Fair and help buy us out. The Fair is a church family tradition. Make a memory!



#### A Real Family Tradition—Peach Shortcake

Even if you never attended a Trinity Fair before, we bet you have heard about our peach shortcake? Sisters Betsey Bray and Nancy Collins have baked for the Fair for many, many years! And, there’s more. Fruit pies, (continued right column page 5)

## CRAFTS FROM THE HANDS AND HEARTS OF MANY

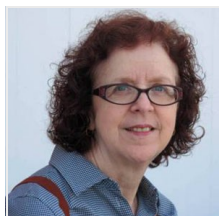


**Team Leader  
Pam Bold**

The Tuesday Night Needle Crafters selected an intricate pattern and a rainbow of colorful fabrics, and they gathered together to create a gorgeous handmade quilt for this year's quilt raffle. This one is called *Spinning Pinwheels*. We only have 1,000 raffle tickets this year, and we hope to sell out! Tickets are again \$2 each. Tickets are available from the office, at the Thursday night Branford Jazz Concerts, occasionally after church, and the day of the Fair. Win a priceless quilt for so little!



The needle crafters have also fashioned many beautiful, original handcrafted items, including small quilts, placemats, pot holders, table toppers, and inspiring wall hangings. All will be available for sale at the Fair. Come and buy!



**Team Leader  
Nancy Williams**

### Calling All Crafters

Are you a knitter or woodworker? Can you sew a decorative cover for a pillow? Do you like to make beaded bracelets in your spare time? Whatever your age, whatever your talent, we have a place for you at the Fair. The Craft Table is the home

for handcrafted wreaths, hats and scarves, Christmas ornaments, shell wreaths or mirrors, and much more. Let your imagination take flight and create something special for our Fair.

We are also looking for volunteers to help in the Craft area on the day of the Fair. No prior experience is necessary, and an hour or two of your time is all we ask. Please contact me with any questions or to volunteer your time and talents.



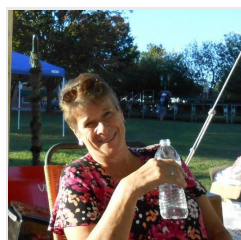
## FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD *CONTINUED*

lemon meringue pies, apple crumble—and all topped with real whipped cream. Join the tradition and make one of their sumptuous desserts an appetizer before you head to the lunch tent! Enjoy!



© Peter Otis

## NEW THIS YEAR! FARMER'S MARKET



**Team Leader  
Ann Freeman**

(watering veggies and herself)  
[communication@trinitybranford.org](mailto:communication@trinitybranford.org)

I hope you planted a few extra veggies or cut flowers to help fill an enticing looking table full of homegrown fresh produce. I can't wait to see what many green thumbs have grown!

No green thumb? Then how about homemade sauce, jams and jellies, pickles, and pickled everything? Produce grown with love tastes the best! Seeds work too, clearly labeled. Early and all morning deliveries on Saturday, most welcome and appreciated. Customer help is needed 10:00 AM-12 PM, and 12-2:00 PM. Thanks!





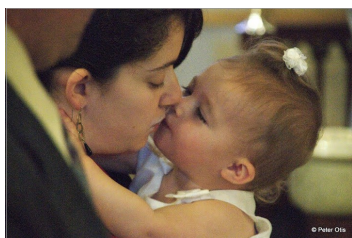
## SILENT AUCTION

*Here's a little insight into the behind-the-scenes hard work that goes into the success of the Silent Auction.*

The team behind the Silent Auction (SA) is one enthusiastic group of ladies! No wonder the Auction is great fun and a financial success. Hard working team leader Peggy Esposito said, "It's addicting. It's just fun and very rewarding."

Brainstorming begins in April/May. Everybody contributes ideas; Peggy mines the online world of Pinterest, silent auction forums, Living Social, Groupon, and larger online companies. Together--Dottie Packer, Sharon, Julie Anderson, Diane Doran, Janet Hager, Loretta Merlone, Pam Bold, Cindy Coote and Peggy--pull together an ambitious wish list. This year a Made in the USA special emphasis emerged, as well as promotion of small business around the country.

The team assigns territory according to interest, existing relationships, time available, etc. Such organization! Diane Doran loves canvassing the shops on the Branford hill, and finds



shopkeepers remember her and surrender without a fuss! New team member Janet Hager has new relationships to leverage in Stony Creek. And no Main Street shopkeeper can resist Julie Anderson and daughter Lucy!

Peggy is fond of creating packages. Grateful to receive Yale Repertory tickets, she immediately thinks about what would make a nice package. Dinner? Hotel overnight? Peggy is working on this one, and you will have to bid to see what the package ends up to be.

Traditional items like Dru Dodd's handmade Raggedy Ann doll (the last one went for \$90!), and Julie's popular homemade jams, mix with new ideas like a Thimble Island Cruise, Oprah's Favorite Things, and much more. If you enjoy a bidding war, we understand the sleigh ride and wheelbarrow of wine will be back!

Cindy Coote specializes in the mystery bags. You don't know what's in the bag, but you pay \$20. It could contain a \$50 restaurant gift card! You have to play to win! If you have unwanted new items suitable for re-gifting to the Mystery Bags, please contact Cindy.



Late in the summer the team comes together for a wrapping gathering at Trinity. Peggy and Jane (office) create labels and

prepare bid sheets. On the day, Kathy Sanchez and Sandy Baldwin help to beautifully decorate tables, and stand by to assist/encourage eager shoppers. Sandy also organizes the closing auction. Finally, happy phone calls are made to excited winners!

It's months in the making, but well worth it. Thanks SA team!



**Team Leader  
Peggy Esposito**  
[silentauction@trinity-branford.org](mailto:silentauction@trinity-branford.org)

We have some great gifts so far, including a Family Game Night package donated by Bananagrams, Essex Steam Train and Riverboat excursion, auto detailing, lovely gift baskets, an ecology tour, and much more!

We are working on a new section--The Bucket List--including once in a lifetime experiences. Can you provide an exclusive tour where you work? A boat, helicopter or plane ride? Maybe you have a talent you can teach? Think outside the box and let's make this the best year yet! Check adventures off the list with a jet ski excursion, NYC Skyride, a fishing trip and more!

We need more folks to visit local shops, gather gift items, prepare presentations and work the day of the Fair. The more, the merrier! Please contact me.



Local business owners as well as corporate donors have, once again, been very generous and supportive of Trinity's goals, and we need that same support from our own congregation. Please take a look at the list below to see what you may be in a position to donate, or maybe chip in with a friend or two.

### **2014 Silent Auction Feature Item Wish List**

Vitamix or Ninja Blender/Juicer ~ Designer Purse ~  
Tablet ~ Broadway Show Tickets ~ Radio City Christmas Show Tickets ~ Sleigh Ride (always VERY popular!) ~  
Cooking or Baking Classes ~ Use of Your Vacation Home ~  
Gift baskets!!!

Watch for "The Giving Tree" to be displayed soon! Just pluck a leaf off the tree and donate that item. Thank you, thank you!



## KIDZ KORNER



**Team Leader  
Loretta Merlone**  
(opening a mystery bag!  
And, a budding poet)

Come kids big and small

To the Trinity Church's Kidz Korner at the Fair this Fall. There will be billions of bubbles that all can create, And a fish pool to catch goodies so great. Games like ring toss, bean bags and horseshoes too, Crafts for kiddies—so much fun to do. Volunteers to help are needed; no-one too wild, Just have the fun-loving heart of a child.



10-12 volunteers needed to play games with the children. Let your inner child be free!

Also, face painting returns! Yeah!! Last year, we saw more adults with painted faces than children. Find your inner child and bring a child, family, friends and neighbors for the fun!

### Bigger Kidz, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM



**Team Leaders  
Patrick & Gina  
Freeman**

Raising three children, and leading Boy and Girl Scouts and Venture Crew, means this couple will have plenty of fun, games and competition for kids. The planning is underway, so bring your children on Fair day for fun and prizes.

## SETUP AND CLEANUP

The laughter and work starts around 4:00 PM Friday, the 5th. Have you ever watched nine adults trying to assemble one simple popup tent? Why are those things so challenging?!



Anyway, there are portable tents to stake, tables to arrange, signs to be attached to tents, tag sale items to be moved out of the undercroft, cans of food to be moved from the church to the Parish Hall (they go out the window and across the grass on Saturday morning), grills to be set up, etc. When many people help, it all happens in 2-3 hours. **Free food** is provided! Please sign up, or accept a personal invitation when you receive one!



Similarly, clean up starts at 2:00 PM Saturday. If you are on the shift that ends at 2:00 PM, be prepared to help clean up the area you are staffing.

**In addition**, we need to dismantle the grills, move the tables back to the Parish Hall and undercroft, load the cans of food in a truck to go to the Branford Food Pantry, etc. Takes about two hours with many hands. Who are our heroes and angels? Make this your gift to Trinity—especially those who have a little lifting power. Thanks!

### Extras That Enhance

- DJ music with a PA system for announcements
- Outside vendors/artisans (Trinity artisans welcome too!)
- Church tours by Jim Atkinson (after 10:30 AM)
- Organized, efficient, money box system.
- New and improved signs donated by sign angels.
- Work schedules and a Volunteer Coordinator.



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1109 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

The Rev. Sharon Gracen, Rector  
Ronald Baldwin, Organist & Choir Director

Parish Office 203-488-2681

e-mail: [trinitychurch@trinitybranford.org](mailto:trinitychurch@trinitybranford.org)

[www.trinitybranford.org](http://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  
And AT&T Channel 99  
7:00 PM Sundays

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **AUGUST**

3rd @ 4:00 PM Strictly Social Picnic at Branford  
Point

4th @ 4:00 PM Columbus House

10th - Shepard Scholarship awards at both services

12th and 26th— 7:00-9:00 PM Jewelry Pricing at  
Lisa's House



## **SEPTEMBER**

September 5th, 4:00 PM on—Fair Setup

September 6th, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM, 107th Fair  
2:00 PM— Cleanup

September 14, Sunday School starts. Godly Play and  
Middle School (Pre-K thru 5th Grade). Registration  
form on parishioner site and Trinity in Touch link.

