



# Messenger

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

December 2012

### Christmas Worship Schedule

#### Christmas Eve

- 5:00 pm Family Service
- 10:30 pm Christmas Concert
- 11:00 pm Festival Candlelight Eucharist

#### Christmas Day

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Music

## Advent Into Christmas

### Advent, Worship In Minor Key

#### December 2, Advent Begins

The silent procession to the slow steady beat

of chimes sets the stage for our Advent worship.

The parts of the service that we always sing—known as the "service music"—change; instead of the celebratory *Gloria*, the choir will alternate two different settings of the *Kyrie*, both rich with harmony and mystery. The *Sanctus* (*Holy, holy, holy*), will change to the familiar setting by Franz Schubert.



The Fraction Anthem at the Breaking of the Bread will also be different, but follows the same pattern with parts for you to sing. The tune for our Lord's Prayer will be a traditional plainsong chant.

But the true star of Advent worship is the hymnody. Advent hymns are the most beautiful, haunting, and evocative of the whole year.

#### December 9, Holly Party at the Rectory

Y'all come to the Rectory from **4:00 to 6:00 pm** and enjoy a fabulous assortment of holiday baking and mulled wine. Rev. Sharon and Peter invite you to join us in this (now) traditional December fellowship. And you get some holly to take home!



*Continued on page 3*

### Inside this issue:

Christian Education	2
Advent Into Christmas	3
Spirituality Ministry	4
Parish Life Ministry	5
Outreach Ministry	6
Leadership	7
Finance Ministry	7

## From the Rector



Dear Trinity Family,

Wait, listen, expect, hope. These are the words of Advent and yet the world screams other words at us; hurry, spend, run, do.

This season, more than any other, puts us at odds with modern culture. For Episcopalians, we try mightily to hold off Christmas until Christmas Eve. We don't put up Christmas decorations in the church until then. The bows on the wreaths on our front door are blue for Advent, not the traditional Christmas red. We all live in both realities and so the question is how do we do it?

That is a question for each of you to ponder. However, I invite all of you to try a little more Advent and a little less Christmas during the upcoming weeks. Carve out time to contemplate

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From The Rector

(Continued from page 1)

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month. Please e-mail to **ajfree-man@comcast.net**. Photographs are welcome. It is respectfully requested material not be formatted (no bolds, underlines, bullets, truncated lines, unusual spacing, etc) since graphic design software doesn't know what to do with it!)

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

### Messenger Contributors

*Features* Rev. Sharon, Ann Freeman

*Editor* Jo-Ann Pearson

*Photos* Peter Otis unless stated

*Design* Ann Freeman

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

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

### Trinity Leadership

Senior Warden: Mark McElrath

Junior Warden: Sherry Jones

Parish Clerk: Ellen Shirey

Treasurer: Vacant

Assistant Treasurer: Katherine Rowe

### Vestry

Andy Campbell, Janet Daley, Dru Dodd, Kelley Esposito, Maureen McGuinness, Peter Otis, Mitch Rucinski, Carol Schaller, Steve Sharma

### Staff

Parish Administrator: Jane Dougherty

Sexton: Nancy Williams

the mystery of the impending arrival of the Word made flesh. Enjoy the waiting and claim some moments of calm and peace. Simplify your plans for the month; in the place of busyness and dashing around, take the time to read the Advent hymn lyrics that we will send to you—one a week during this season of the new year.

Wait, listen, expect, hope.

Peace,

*Sharon +*

## Christian Education Ministry

By Martha Monico, Chair



For Adults:

The first Adult Forum in-between the Sunday services, was quite well attended. It was good to hear **Sue Wharf** receiving well-deserved accolades for her presentation.

See the next page article, **December 16, The Wonderful Impossible**, for details of the next forum.

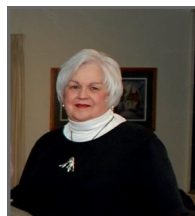
For Youth:

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm—6:00 pm** Middle and high school students meet to think about something, to do something and to eat something. See **Jen Zehler** or **Rev. Sharon** for more information.

For Children:

See the next page article, **The Christmas Pageant**, for details.

## The Flower Ministry, Touching Hearts



Trinity's Flower Ministry, responsible for the delivery of altar flowers following our Sunday services to parishioners needing a bit of sunshine in their lives, is looking for new members to join its fold.

If you would like to help occasionally with this very important and meaningful ministry, please contact **Roz Jones**, Ministry Coordinator, at 203-481-8436.

Thank you!

## Advent Into Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

### December 12 and 19, Advent Suppers

The advent hymns will provide the focus for our Advent suppers. A potluck supper and some peaceful time will help us to contemplate the season through the lyrics and melodies of these lovely musical prayers. Join us for two Wednesday evenings, the 12th and the 19th, at 6:30 pm in the Guild Room. Come and be refreshed.

### December 16, The Wonderful Impossible



Don't miss a very special experience at the Adult Education Forum, on the third Sunday in December. At **9:00 am**, **Cathy** and **John Seibyl** will share the Christmas story told from The Annunciation through The Flight into Egypt using Giotto's frescoes with scripture via the Godly Play language and reflective musical responses. **Taegan Williams** will play the oboe. This program is for everyone—adults, youth, and children who are old enough to quietly sit still.

### December 19, Poinsettias on the Altar for Christmas

If you would like to remember a loved one at Christmas, please send a check payable to Trinity Church with 'poinsettia' on the memo line. Remember to include the name(s) of those being remembered. Send your check to the office via the offertory plate, or the drop slot in the office door, or by mail no later than **December 19**.



### December 23, Merry Christmas from Trinity Church

2010 started a new and lovely tradition for Christmas at Trinity Church. The Christmas wafer as they are known, is a tradition from Eastern Europe. At your Christmas meal, the eldest person present wishes all, "Happy Christmas, may God grant us all blessings and peace in the year ahead." The wafer is broken and shared around the table with each person offering a Christmas wish. Wafers will be distributed at worship this Sunday.

### The Christmas Pageant

And later that evening, a Christmas tradition brought to you by the children of Trinity. This year *The Gifts in the Stable* will tell the story through the animals that shared their warmth and space with Mary and Joseph and then with the special baby. Come and be enchanted at **5:00 pm**, in the church.



**Jen Zehler, Erica Campbell** and **Rev. Sharon** will produce and

direct the play, with **Dawn Henry** as musical director. The Youth group will help with set design and mentor the children.

A potluck supper follows the production with ham, drinks and paper goods provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert of your choice to share. Pageant rehearsal, costume and part assignments happen on Sunday, **December 9<sup>th</sup>** and **16<sup>th</sup>** after the 10:00 am service. Parents and children please come to the undercroft.

### December 24, Early Eve

At **5:00 pm**, a special service designed with excited children in mind, will set the right tone for Christmas.

Music, the Velveteen Rabbit, the marvelous story of the night in Bethlehem, and the holy meal at the Lord's Table, all make for a very Holy Night.





## Advent Into Christmas *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship



The church will be transformed from the mysterious blue of Advent to the glorious white and gold accented by the red and green of Christmas flowers. At **10:30 pm** the Trinity Choir presents a concert of Christmas music followed by a Festival Eucharist at **11:00 pm**. Come and celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Singing with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven!



Among the varied selections the choir will present this year will be a 16th century choral piece by Samuel Scheidt, *A Child is Born in Bethlehem*, and a grandiose arrangement of *The First Noel*.

The men of the choir will perform a work by themselves. The women will be featured in John Rutter's *Angels' Carol*. The program will conclude with the sensitive and beautiful setting of *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Harold Darke.

## Spirituality Ministry

By Bob Barnett, Chair



Members of the Spirituality Ministry teamed up with Trinity parents who have college kids, to make a care package from Trinity for each student. The idea is simply to reach out, stay in touch and let each student know they are remembered by their church community. The first packages arrived, and so did the first couple of happy responses.

**Patrick Monico** said, "They put some really good stuff in those packages, like batteries, cards, pens and markers. I gave the bubbles to my girlfriend. I will enjoy everything in that box! It was so nice of Trinity to remember us!"

**Shelby McElrath** emailed her dad, "They did good! I can actually use a number of things they sent and I'm so-o-o thrilled about the cookies. Even the few things I can't use now—like the dry erase pens—they'll be useful next semester on the home campus. Plus, it's just nice to receive surprise mail!"

This idea is a home run!

### The Meal Train's a-comin' !

On the recommendation from several parishioners, we have decided to enroll in a very helpful on-line tool to organize our In-reach Meal Ministry. Previously, Maryann Allen organized all meals for those in the congregation who were coming home from the hospital or had a new baby, or anything else that made getting meals together a challenge. When she stepped down as her job demanded more travel, the Meal Train was right there, ready to help us. We thank Maryann for her excellent service, culinary and organizational skills.

**meal Train**<sup>SM</sup>  
support friends, strengthen communities



Here's how it will work. As we, (mostly Jane), learn of parishioners who could benefit from a meal, we will send out an email with a link to **mealtrain.com**. Anyone interested in helping will simply click on the link and go directly to the Meal Train set-up for that person, for the address and any special instructions. There will be a calendar, you pick a date, post what you will take, and it's done. Everyone else can see what you are taking, so people won't be overly lasagna'd!

There are some Stop & Shop cards in the office for those providing meals, should you need them. Let's give it a try! Feedback to Jane in the office or Rev. Sharon will be appreciated.

## Parish Life Ministry

### First Sunday Breakfast, December 2

Gather together at 9:00 am in the Undercroft for a delicious breakfast and fellowship. On the menu is scrambled eggs, bacon, **Sally Monroe muffins**, juice, coffee, tea or milk. \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. *Please* sign up in the foyer, call the office or email: [firstsundaybreakfast@trinitybranford.org](mailto:firstsundaybreakfast@trinitybranford.org).

Thank You! To the anonymous and kind benefactor of First Sunday Breakfast in November. Everyone ate for free and were pleased to do so!

### Trinity Book Group, December 5

There's been a little reorganizing of the previously published schedule. December book group will discuss *One Thousand White Women* and January it will be *Freedom Writer's Diary*. March resumes the 2013 schedule.

*One Thousand White Women*, by Jim Fergus, comes from diaries written by May Dodd about pioneer women who, under the Ulysses S. Grant administration in 1875, travel west to intermarry among the Cheyenne Indians. The "Brides for Indians" program was intended to help assimilate the Indians into the white man's world.

Everyone is welcome to join the discussion which starts at 7:00 pm in the Guild Room.

### Ron Baldwin recognized for twenty years+ of service and a milestone birthday



Ron Baldwin was surrounded by family, friends and parishioners to celebrate his 70th birthday and twenty-one years as Music Director at Trinity. The standing ovation in Church expressed everyone's appreciation of Ron—his talent, his knowledge, his commitment,

his excellence in the music ministry, and his niceness. Thanks to **Ken Sause, Dottie Packer, the Choir**, and others, the celebration was a surprise! Ron was presented with

gifts, special songs from the choir, and some cash to seed the new Ron Baldwin Music Ministry Fund. Anyone who appreciates the music ministry at Trinity may contribute. The Fund would be used to enrich the music program beyond the limitations of the annual budget.

### Twelfth Night Celebration

Save the date! **January 5th, 2013**. We had such fun last year, we can't wait for Twelfth Night to come again! Mark your calendar and watch for details to follow later this month.

### Hospitality on Tree Lighting Night

Hundreds of people huddle and shift from one foot to the other to keep warm while waiting for the Christmas Parade and Santa to arrive on the Green. Again this year, Trinity turned on the lights and threw open the doors and invited everyone in for hot chocolate, cider and caroling with the Choir. Many thanks to **Jen Zehler** for the delicious hot chocolate and cider, and to the Trinity fairies who dropped off cookies. Trinity's Barnett family (Patricia, Clare and Bob) enjoyed it all!



### Welcome through Baptism

We welcome into the Body of Christ through Baptism, **Frank Robert Mata, Jr.**, baby boy born to proud parents **Crystal** and **Frank Mata**.



## Outreach Ministry

### Trinity's Closet

By Kathy Sanchez, Coordinator



Thanks to all for your terrific support of Trinity's Closet! From the many generous donations, we were able to serve well over 75 guests with a wide assortment of winter coats and other warm apparel, as well as household cleaners, paper goods and toiletries. Many hands on Friday afternoon made the setup process go quickly. I appreciate everyone who came by to help.

On Saturday morning, our guests—who often arrive an hour early to reserve a good spot in line—were treated to fresh brewed coffee by barista **Jen Zehler**. Special thanks to **Dru Dodd** and **Lisa Davis-Rucinski** who mentored me on my maiden voyage as coordinator, my dad **Bill Holohan** for all of the pick-ups and deliveries and **Mary Cesar** who generously donated so much of her time and talent on both days.

I wanted everyone to know how much your donations and efforts mean to those in need. Upon exiting one guest returned to say, 'Thanks for caring about us.'

### Trinity's Angel Tree Program

The Humphrey family passes the torch of managing the Angel Tree Program to the Freeman family and the Venture Crew (Scouting). The Angel Tree coordinator is **Patrick Freeman** and his wife **Gina** leads the Venture Crew. This year, Trinity will serve 65 children in Branford, East Haven, and New Haven. Please help comfort a child whose parent is incarcerated by purchasing an Angel Tree gift.



The angels are on the tree in the Parish Hall. When you take an angel, please register your name and the angel number with the coordinator at the table. Gift value is limited to \$20. Remember to include the gift receipt in the box in case exchanges are necessary. If you prefer to give cash, we have an angel's helper who will shop for you. Please return *wrapped* gifts to the office by **Sunday, December 16**. The deliveries will be **Saturday, December 22**.

Patrick needs volunteers to mentor the Venture crew with sorting of packages and adults who can drive to deliver the gifts. Please let him know right away if you can help. He can be reached at 203-710-0980 or [patrick.b.freeman@snet.net](mailto:patrick.b.freeman@snet.net).

The history and stories of the national Angel Tree Prison Ministry may be found at [www.prisonfellowship.org/programs/angel-tree](http://www.prisonfellowship.org/programs/angel-tree).

### Neighbors remembered

Thank you! Thank you! 116 turkey dinners is a wonderful response to the Thanksgiving turkey appeal which helped to bring a traditional thanksgiving dinner to over 248 families in need in Branford. And, thank you **Julius Feniola, Jr**, for a job well done as Trinity's Turkey Team Leader.

**Operation Fuel:** Remember to check the Add-A-Dollar box on your utility bill. All Add-a-Dollar contributions are matched by the utility company. All money goes to CT families who fall through the gaps.

### The Native American Art Show was a hit!

The Art Show drew the public in and reports are there was a wonderful atmosphere in the air among guests and the artists. The evening raised about \$1,000 for The Center Pole youth. **Paul Humphrey** and others worked hard to make the evening a success.

### Thanks from Haiti, by Rev. Sharon



*Janet Constantino, APRN, (co-traveler with Rev. Sharon) at clinic*

All of the medication and supplies that you brought in throughout the year brought relief from pain, sleeplessness, heartburn, itching, and more, all things that we take for granted. For the people of

## Outreach Ministry *continued*

Haiti, there is little relief from any distress. They are hungry, tired, their muscles and bones ache from hard labor, when they can find it.



*The toothbrushes were put to good use immediately!*

It seemed like so little but we cannot over-estimate the effects of such respite, if even for a short time. The people to whom we delivered these small gifts were profoundly grateful. We set up clinics in four different villages and people often walked for hours to be seen by one of our practitioners. We saw many things regularly, and some few very dire things that would not have improved without medical attention like injuries and infections.

The sad reality is that none of the things we saw were life-threatening, unless you have no access to care and necessary medication. A man was blind from glaucoma, people with hypertension who hadn't had their medication in months, a child with hydrocephalus was permanently brain-damaged because the family could not afford to go to the hospital to have a shunt put in. Things like that do not need to happen.

Thank you for equipping us to bring relief and some awareness that the rest of the world cares what happens to them.



## Leadership

### Vestry Nominations

The Nominating Committee for Vestry has been formed and is currently seeking the names of individuals interested in becoming Vestry members and Diocesan Convention/Deanery Representatives. Those nominated will be presented and voted on at our next Parish's Annual Meeting in January 2013. Attributes we are seeking in Vestry members of Trinity:

- Are thoughtful, strong, forward thinking and able to look at the big picture.
- Will effectively represent the diverse composition and opinions of members of the congregation.
- Are capable of and will make thoughtful proposals that will enhance the spiritual well-being of our church community.
- Will put in the time and effort required to be an effective member of the Vestry.
- Are willing to verbalize and support a conflicting opinion.

The Nominating Committee welcomes all suggestions and recommendations. Please feel free to contact us.

**Steve Sharma**, ssharma698@aol.com, 203-377-7149

**Mitch Rucinski**, whaleho2003@gmail.com, 481-2230

**Maureen McGuinness**, mmcguin627@sbcglobal.net, 481-9370

**Sandra Baldwin**, sandrab1947@yahoo.com, 208-0810

**Martha Monico**, edmarthamonico@yahoo.com, 421-4208

### Finance Ministry

#### Stock Gifts to Trinity

Many of you generously donate stock to Trinity as part of your annual pledge. When you make your request for stock to be transferred to Trinity, it takes many weeks for the funds to actually reach us. We cannot credit your giving statement until the funds have actually been received. Please make your request in plenty of time for the funds to reach us before year's end. Any funds received after we close the Trinity books for the year will be applied to next year's pledge. Thank you!

### Celebrate our scholars!

**Save the Date: January 6, 2013, 10:00 am** service and coffee hour. Hear how our Shepard Fund Scholars have progressed in the past year. Are you planning your education or that of your children? If so, learn about the Shepard Scholarships and help us celebrate the generous legacy Mabel Shepard gave to Trinity to honor and support education.

Questions? **Sherry Jones**, juniorwarden@trinitybranford.org.

**Trinity Episcopal Church  
1109 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405**

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

**Parish Office 203-488-2681**

**trinitychurch@trinitybranford.org**

**www.trinitybranford.org**

***Worship at Trinity***

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II**

**9:45 AM Sunday School and  
Nursery Care**

**10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II  
With music and choir**

**Televised on Channel 18  
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**

## December 2012 Special Dates

Every day calendar, [trinitybranford.org/news](http://trinitybranford.org/news)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 First Sunday breakfast, 9 am	3	4	5 Trinity Book Group 7 pm	6	7	8
9 Pageant re- hearsal, 11:30. Rector's holly party, 3-5 pm	10	11 Noon, Spiritual- ity Ministry	12	13	14	15
16 9:00 Adult Forum; Pageant rehearsal 11:30; 4:30-6 Youth	17 Angel Tree package due	18	19 Altar poinset- tia checks due	20	21	22 Angel Tree deliveries
23 Pageant and potluck supper, 5 pm	24 5 pm, The Velveteen Rab- bit; 10:30 con- cert; 11 pm Eucharist	25 10 am Eucharist	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5 Twelfth Night Party!