



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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February 2011

Leadership Episcopalian Style

The Annual Report is on the Trinity website, parishioner login: *username: trinitybranford, password: alleluia*. Hard copies may be found at the back of the Church or contact the office. Meet your new Officers, Vestry members and the Chairs of the Council of Ministries.



It is no coincidence that the bicameral legislative structures of the United States government and the Episcopal Church are identical—they were the product of the same minds.

The rector of Christ Church in Philadelphia served as Chaplain to the Continental Congress and many of the founders were worshippers in

that parish, including Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Morris, George Washington and Betsy Ross.

Of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, 57% were Anglicans, which, of course, became the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church was officially created at the first General Convention in 1789, the same year as the full implementation of the new US Constitution. More than half of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the signers of the Constitution were Episcopalians.

Since that time, one quarter of US Presidents and a third of all Supreme Court Justices have been Episcopalians.

There is much to recommend itself about the central tenet of Anglican thought—the *via media*, which means *a middle way*. *Via media* originally meant a place in between the Protestant movement and the historic Roman Catholic Church. The Church of England sought to embrace what was valuable from the reformers while still maintaining what was viable and desirable from the traditions.

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From the Rector



Dear Friends in Christ,

If a bell tolls and no one knows why...does it matter? The answer to this

rather cryptic riddle is a resounding "Yes!" January 12th was the one-year anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti. Around Christmas time, I found a Facebook page called Bells for Haiti, which proposed that as many churches as possible throughout the US ring their bells at the time of the quake for 35 seconds — the duration of the trembler. I immediately signed on, loving the idea of our historic bell being a part of such a moment. I had also planned on getting the

word out through the community, so people would be drawn into the idea of remembering all that still needs to be done in that tortured country. But then, Bob Denhardt's funeral and my Christmas cold kept me from my good intentions. I had given the plan no more thought, especially as Peter and I put together our rather hasty trip to California, leaving on January 12. I had, however, told our faithful bell ringer, **Mike Dodd**, about the plan, but

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Council of Ministries

A Table of Chairs

With the implementation of the Council of Ministries structure for Trinity Church, the senior leadership of the parish has effectively doubled. The officers of the parish, the two Wardens, the Treasurer and the Clerk of the Vestry, and the nine members of the Vestry have now been joined by the Chairs of the Ministries.

These dedicated members of the parish have all agreed to help launch this exciting development in the life of Trinity Church.

For the time being, the Stewardship Ministry is under the aegis of the Vestry. We are indeed fortunate to have such a wealth of capable leadership.

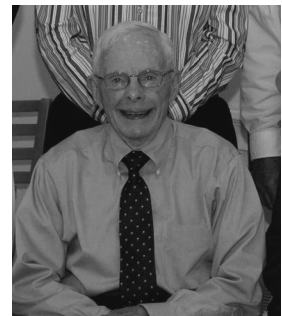
Please thank them when you see them.

(Continued from page 1)

had not mentioned it since. As we flew to San Diego, it all came back to me and I chalked it up to unfulfilled good intentions. Then to my delight, I received an email from Mike titled “Bells for Haiti...done.” This good man had trudged through the latest snow dump to ring the bell in Trinity’s steeple for people who need us to care. We have no idea if anyone within earshot had any idea of why our bell was tolling or for whom, but I don’t think it matters. Our bell was a part of a gentle, loving tribute, a kind of loving leadership toward compassion. We must not forget our brothers and sisters who still live in tents if they are lucky, who are at risk from cholera, violence, and despair. Thank you and bless you, Mike, for ringing for all of us. And now we must ask, “What do we do now?” I await your suggestions.

Peace, *Sharon +*

Presenting the Leadership of the Council of Ministries



Top row, left to right : Outreach—Kim Humphrey; Worship - Sandy Baldwin; Parish Life – Peter Hayes; Spirituality – Bob Barnett

Bottom row, left to right : Education – Martha Monico; Communication – Ann Freeman; Buildings and Grounds – Mike McGuinness; Finance – Bill Baskin; Not shown, Administration – Rev. Sharon

Full bios many be found on www.trinitybranford.org/parishioner login

Trinity's Greatest Blessings—Its People

Passing the torch

It's no trivial task to say "thank you" sufficiently to people who have served Trinity extraordinarily well for many years, committing countless hours and tireless effort. Times of transition and search are particularly stressful on a parish. Sandy and Mike were very good shepherds of this Church during that time. They made it possible for Sharon to come in and, as she said, "hit the ground running." Here is a little bit about these dedicated servants of Trinity, as they pass the torch.

Sandy Baldwin has been Trinity's Senior Warden for the last five years (and for those who would swear it's longer, Junior Warden for five years prior to that.) She has been seemingly tireless, extraordinarily committed, and hugely effective. Administratively she has been involved in every major project during the last ten years. To cite a few: the capital campaign, restoration projects, Vision Team trips to Guatemala, and the Search Process. Concurrently, she managed a myriad of day-to-day administrative details, organized Vestry meetings, participated on the Stewardship Committee, and ensured Worship was staffed and flawless. Sandy's compassion and kindness makes everyone—visitor and parishioner alike—feel welcome and part of the Trinity Church family.

When asked what she finds the most satisfying, she answered: *"Two things. First, the restoration improvements made to the buildings. I think all buildings are in pretty good shape for being historic buildings. The second would be my relationships with parishioners. They talk with me and tell me what they like or don't like, and trust me to do what is right for Trinity and Trinity's people."*

Michael Freeman has served as the Junior Warden for the last three years. Retired and a package of skills, Mike was exceedingly able to manage contractors and often do unexpected day-to-day repair and maintenance of the church, buildings and the rectory. Where he has left a particular mark are the many long-term serious property problems that have been addressed and resolved.

Administratively, Mike's successful business and organizational skills have been an asset to the senior leader-

ship team. His common sense approach to problem solving, and his innate ability to treat everyone with respect and kindness, are effective and appreciated. He too has been extraordinarily committed and hugely effective. In addition to his Officer responsibilities, Mike ushers, serves at First Sunday Breakfast, and co-Chaired Stewardship.

Mike's response to what he finds the most satisfying: *"To have found some long-term solutions to some long-term problems. And, the teamwork that evolved between Sandy and me, as well as the working relationship with the Vestry and the Trinity community."*



There's one other dedicated servant to Trinity, who deserves special recognition.

Jim Atkinson has served as Clerk of the Parish for 20 years. He's held the position through three rectors and two interim rectors! Jim has faithfully attended most monthly Vestry meetings, 20 years of annual meetings, plus special meetings. When he changed from the day to the night shift at the *New Haven Register*, this forced him to switch his shift with a co-worker and work on Saturday instead, just so he could attend the Vestry meeting. He has been extraordinarily committed, dependable and consistent in this role.



Jim continues to lector, usher, host coffee hour with his wife Susan, and serve as the Deanery alternate.

His thought on what has been most satisfying is: *"Being part of the history. Using my skills to record the work of the amazing people I've served with, and to see the fruition of important work like restoration, is very satisfying."*

A Grateful Parish Says

"Thank You"

Worship Ministry

A Liturgy Moment

The letters of 1 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, and Romans from the apostle Paul all give the instruction to “Greet one another with a holy kiss.” As we hear these words today we can easily miss their radical meaning. In complete contradistinction to the stratified Greco-Roman world, Christianity proclaimed equality for all, which was ritualized in the sharing of a meal by rich and poor, slaves and masters, men and women together, and in the greeting with a holy kiss.

It was a Roman world custom that whenever someone of lower class greeted royalty they would either kiss their hand, or their feet, or even kiss the hem of their robe.

The early church understood that in Christ all became sons and daughters of a King. This translated to the early church practice of greeting one another with a holy kiss. It was a tremendously subversive act by which the early church proclaimed its presence.

This greeting of equals signified reconciliation between divisions in society which are not a part of God’s original plan, but were the outcome of alienation and separation.

The passing of the peace—the liturgical version of greeting with a holy kiss—acknowledges our equality and proclaims reconciliation. It is a solemn moment that flows out of our confession, which admits our alienation, and the absolution, which proclaims our forgiveness. We then turn to one another and demonstrate that we are reconciled; we are one body, all equal, all welcome.

It is always tempting to allow the passing of the peace to become a social moment rather than a liturgical one. However, it behooves us to consider the strangers in our midst, those who are worshipping with us for the first time. If conversations spring up all around them, they are immediately shut out and we cease to demonstrate equality, reconciliation, and welcome.

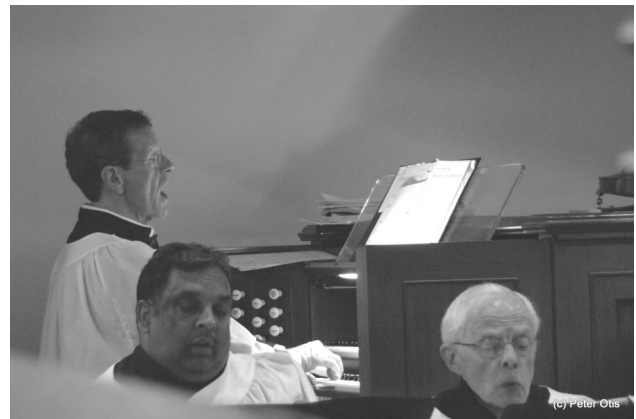
The passing of the peace is a holy moment that prepares us to come to the Lord’s Table in unity, unencumbered by alienation from one another and God. It is a gift to be honored and shared.

Peace be with you.

A bit about Music at Trinity

Trinity Church is blessed with a wonderful music program, beginning with the musical leadership of **Ron Baldwin**, our organist and choir director.

The Choir (mostly volunteer) provides excellent musical leadership and harmony to our hymns. They lead the psalms and enhance the themes of each Sunday with anthems during the Liturgy of the Word and often during Communion.



The selection of music for a Sunday is Mr. Baldwin’s responsibility. The hymns are chosen to reflect the scripture for the day and provide weekly variety. In consultation with Rev. Sharon, the service music is chosen with the character of the season of the church year; they provide continuity. This service music is the pieces that are sung each week, the *Gloria* or *Kyrie* and the music sung during the Eucharist; the *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy) the Lord’s Prayer, and the Fraction Anthem (sung after the bread is broken).

These pieces come from a variety of sources but often are found in the Service Music section in the front of the hymnal, indicated by an S in front of the number in the service bulletin. Other times, they are found in the Wonder, Love and Praise hymnal (green, on the pew set). This music is usually repeated for a goodly number of weeks, giving the congregation an opportunity to become familiar with and often be able to sing them by heart.

A note from your Rector ... Whether or not you consider yourself a singer, it is a wonderful idea to always turn to the hymns and enjoy the extraordinary poetry of our faith. It’s some of the best stuff we do!

Outreach Ministry

Join us for a night of fun and entertainment !!

The Trinity Outreach Committee is again sponsoring an International Dinner on Saturday evening, February 5th. The evening will start at 6:00 pm with a concert by the "The Power of Praise and Worship Band." The musical core of the band will be inviting our own **Cheryl Hyder** and **Bill Bray** to perform the majority of the vocals during the evening.

Dinner will follow at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall and all proceeds will benefit the Branford Fuel Assistance program. Entrees from around the world will be provided by committee members and friends, and we are asking for dessert donations from attendees. The price for the dinner will be \$15 per person with a family limit of \$40. Attendance will be limited to 80 people. Money will be collected at the door.

So bring your friends, and join us for great entertainment and great food!! A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex, or you can call the office at 203-488-2681

Dinner With Friends

Meals are more fun when they are shared. Trinity will host **Dinner with Friends** on Friday, February 11th. Enjoy a satisfying dinner that you don't have to cook, and fellowship at the table, perfect for those who live alone, or a chance to spend time with old friends or make new friends. February's menu is meatloaf, for just \$8.00. Dinner is served at 6:00 pm, first come, first served!

How can you help? We need a team of volunteers to help setup, serve and cleanup. This is a great ministry opportunity for those who enjoy to serve and meet others. If you are interested in helping, please contact the office.

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." Rabindranath Tagore was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, in 1913.

Finance Ministry

Trinity Funds

Have you ever wondered about how many Funds there are in Trinity's treasury, and for what purpose? Well, **Bill Baskin**, who is working to create the Church's first Finance Ministry, has been preparing a comprehensive description of all of these Funds for inclusion in the 2010 Annual Report and posting on Trinity's website. Hopefully, it will be helpful in understanding how the financial life of Trinity works and useful for donors who may wish to support a particular parish function.

Please take a moment to review the material. Any questions, please contact Bill directly.

Stewardship of Your Health

Be safe walking on the snow and ice. Buy a pair of YakTracks to attach to your boots. They really work! They grip the snow and ice and help to prevent falling. Check your local sportswear shops quickly, since they're flying off the shelves! \$30 is better spent this way than co-pays and deductibles! Thank you **Jane** for the best winter safety tip!



(Continued from page 1)

Since that time, *via media* has come to reflect a way of thinking that is not polarized, but instead seeks to strike a balance by drawing on the good from differing positions or opinions. *Via media* thinkers make good leaders.

The Episcopal Church has served this nation well, and we continue to have important things to contribute to the shaping of public dialogue and to compassionate policy. The *via media*—an idea whose time must come—brought to you by the Episcopal Church.



Publishing Note:

Submission deadline for the following months *Messenger* is the 15th of the current month. Please submit any hard copy to the office or e-mail to 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 for clarity by an editor. Editorial rights are reserved to fit space constraints.

Parish Life Ministry

New Life

In January we welcomed four new members to the Body of Christ. Those born anew and baptized were:

Amiee Leigh Pastore and her daughter
Kendall Leigh Pastore

Patrick Riley Blanchette

Edward Peter Tantorski

We also extend congratulations to **Alice and Edgar Nyatome** on the birth of their son, **Noah**. We look forward to baptizing Noah.

*Heavenly Father, Give
them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage
to will and to persevere, a
spirit to know and to love
you, and the gift of joy and
wonder in all your works.
Amen*

Book of Common Prayer

In Memoriam

Robert Denhardt

"Be Like Bob"

And

William (Bill) Davis

May their souls and those of all the
departed rest in peace.

The Trinity Book Group is gathering on Wednesday, February 2nd, at 7:00 pm in the Guild Room. The book selection is *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay.

This is a fictitious novel centered around the great Velodrome d'Hiver roundup in occupied Paris, France, summer 1942. It is a tribute to the children of the Vel' d'Hiv'. All are welcome.

If you would like more information about the Trinity Book Group, please call 203-605-6692 or email alison-barbaro@comcast.net.



An Extra Special Thank You!

To Peter & Rodney Hayes and all the members of the Choir for their wonderful coffee hour hospitality.

To the Special Celebration Hosts who planned and organized the celebration for our retiring Wardens, Sandy Baldwin and Mike Freeman. They are:

Perdita Norwood

Sherry Jones

Carol Schaller

Jeanne McParland

Dru Dodd

First Sunday Breakfast, February 6th

A Trinity favorite! **Sally Monroe** muffins (home baked, yummy!) , scrambled eggs, juice, coffee, tea or milk. It's \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum.

Please RSVP to the office, or use the signup sheets in the Narthex (back of the church) and Parish Hall.

A special invitation goes out to our newcomers. This is a great way to meet other parishioners from both services, and lets us get to know you a little bit. Breakfast is in the undercroft, through the doors to the Parish Hall, down the stairs.

Saint of the Month

A little background

The Episcopal Church publishes *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, which contains feast days for various men and women the Church wishes to honor; it is updated every three years and notable persons are added. It contains Lessons and Psalms for the weekdays of Advent, Christmas until the Baptism of Christ, Lent, and the Easter Season; also, Collects, Psalms and Lessons are provided for the fixed Holy Days, and for the Lesser Feasts and Fasts. In addition, descriptions of the fixed Holy days and biographies of the saints in the calendar are included. Since ancient times, Christians have honored men and women whose lives represent heroic commitment to Christ and who have borne witness to their faith even at the cost of their lives. Such witnesses, by the grace of God, live in every age.

In the lives of the saints, we celebrate the presence of Christ expressing itself in and through particular lives lived in the midst of specific historical circumstances. We are not dealing with absolutes of perfection, but with human lives in all of their diversity, open to the motions of the Holy Spirit. When carefully examined, many a holy life will reveal flaws or the bias of a particular historical moment or ecclesial perspective: for example, attitudes toward those outside the Church, assumptions about gender, understanding of the world, may appear to be defective and wrong. What in one age was taken as virtue may at another time seem misguided. We are encouraged to realize that the saints, like us, are first and foremost redeemed sinners in whom the risen Christ's word to St. Paul comes to mind: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

The "lesser feasts" provide opportunities for optional observance. They are not intended to replace the fundamental celebration of Sunday and major Holy Days.

Absalom Jones, February 13

Absalom Jones was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read using the New Testament along with other books. At age 16, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia, PA, where he attended a night school for blacks operated by the Quakers. At age 24, he married another slave and purchased her freedom with his earnings. Jones bought his freedom in 1784.

Jones served as a lay minister for the Black membership of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, where he and his friend, Richard Allen, significantly increased the Black membership. This alarmed the vestry, who attempted to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery; the Blacks indignantly walked out as a body.



In 1787, Black Christians in Philadelphia organized the Free African Society, the first organized Afro-American society, and Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. The Society established communication with similar Black groups in other cities, and in 1792 it began to build a church which was dedicated in July 1794.

The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, with the following conditions: 1) they be received as an organized body; 2) they have control over their local affairs; 3) that Absalom Jones be licensed as lay reader and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In September 1794, they were received as the St. Thomas African Episcopal Church into the fellowship and communion of the Pennsylvania Episcopal Diocese. Bishop William White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest in 1802.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, warning oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." It was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.

Jones died in Philadelphia on February 13, 1818, and in 1973, the 64th General Convention of the Episcopal Church added his name to the Church calendar as an optional feast to be celebrated.

Prayer

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear, that honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Communications Ministry Contributors

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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
7:00 PM Sundays

Wednesday

12:10 PM Eucharist & Healing
Service, Parish House

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2011, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Trinity Book Group	3	4	5 Intro to Bible #3 ;Int'l Dinner
6 First Sun- day Breakfast	7	8 Spirituality Ministry Meet- ing	9	10	11 Dinner With Friends	12 Intro to Bible #4
13 Absalom Jones Feast Day	14 Prayer Shawl Knitting	15 Vestry meeting	16	17	18	19 Intro to Bible # 5
20	21 President's Day. Church Office is closed!	22 George Washington's Birthday	23	24	25	26 Intro to Bible # 6
27	28					