



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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January 2012

*May the
peace and
hope of Christ's
birth be with
you now and
in the years
ahead.*



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Haiti 2011: Beyond the Mountains

Thank you all for the supplies and prayers we took to Haiti this November. We traveled "beyond the mountains," providing health care to over one thousand people, many of whom had never seen a health care provider before.

I have not seen much improvement in conditions in Haiti since the earthquake. Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The mountain people have little or no access to health care. The local hospital is poorly equipped and understaffed. Most of the doctors want to be in Port au Prince, not isolated in the mountains. Cholera stills exists but is much improved since last year, with fewer cases. We treated typhoid fever this year, which is on the rise.

The people were very grateful for the medications, supplies and concern of the team, and all who helped make the journey possible. So thank you from the Haitian People.



I plan to go next November, anyone want to come? In January, you can go to **www.globalhealthministry.com** and click on volunteer application. It is a trip that will change you forever.

Janet Constantino

Footnote: Janet is a Family Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist in Mental Health at Yale School of Nursing, a board member of Global Health Ministry, and an experienced traveler to third world countries where health care is desperately needed and minimally available.

Trinity Church Annual Parish Meeting

There will be one 9:00 am service on the last Sunday in January, immediately followed by the Parish Annual Meeting. *Everyone is invited to stay and participate.* Hear about 'the state of the parish'; say 'thank you' to departing Vestry members and Officers; exercise your vote and elect your new Vestry members; meet your new Wardens and Officers; hear about the operating budget and the expanded Outreach programs; let your voice be heard!

Mark your calendar—January 29th, 2012

From the Rector

Dear Trinity Friends,



New Year's Day is an interesting lens. It allows us look back at the year past and celebrate, mourn, and sometimes regret what the old year presented. Through the same lens we look ahead, at the blank slate, twelve months in which to choose what we want, what we hope to be, and pray for the world beyond our control.

Everyone has their own lens; some use different ones for parts of life—one for personal, one for professional. I invite all of you to try out the lens of spiritual growth and see if it might apply to all aspects of your life. A spiritual lens will focus our attention on whether or not we stepped out and tried something new, or decided to let go of an old pattern that was holding us back. A spiritual lens applied to money might change how we define security or how we see generosity as a part of a tide-like flow. It can show us that simplicity is freedom and not luck.

Applying a spiritual lens to our work life can redefine why we do what we do. It can connect us to the impact that we have on the world and how we see those around us. Applying it to our personal life will do the same thing. Using such a lens to evaluate the past year and look ahead to 2012 can give you a coherent view, an organizing principle for your life that connects the dots of your thoughts and activities. God has a purpose for your life and it is not confined to an hour on Sunday morning; it is for your whole life. Bring it into focus and see how the strands of your life look as they weave together.

Peace,

Sharon +

Christian Education Ministry

Bible Study

Get a bird's-eye view of the Bible, what is it, what is in it, how do we read and understand it? Beginning on Wednesday, January 4th and continuing until Ash Wednesday—February 22nd, Rev. Sharon will lead this introductory course. There is a small charge for materials. All are welcome, especially your questions! Please call the office to sign up.

Parish Life Ministry

Welcome to Trinity!



Patricia Estrom is happily renewing her acquaintance with the shoreline and Trinity Church. She grew up in West Haven and at one point lived in Jefferson Woods, Branford, so she has many ties with the area.

Her son Jonathan Anderson and his wife Julie were married in November at Trinity. The medical assistant at UConn Medical Center in Farmington currently lives on the Wallingford-Meriden line, but is looking to move back to Branford where she is happier. She loves walking, particularly by the shore at Hammonasset, cooking and shopping.

Continued on page 3

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

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Kris Lockwood	Junior Warden
Regis Conlon	Treasurer
Roz Jones	Clerk of the Parish

Vestry and Council of Ministry members, see website.

Parish Life/ Welcome! continued

Charles (Terry) and MJ Haight moved to North Branford in 2008, having been born and living most of their lives in New York City. Terry is a graduate of Yale College Yale Law School, and MJ of Vassar College. They were married in Manhattan, and have two grown daughters. Their first married home was in New Haven, during Terry's law school years. They moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where Terry was a trial lawyer with the Admiralty and Shipping Section of the United States Department of Justice. After two years, an admiralty law firm drew Terry to New York, when he was nominated by President Ford to be a United States District Judge in federal court in Manhattan. He continues to perform limited judicial service to that court and the federal district court in New Haven.

During the New York years, MJ worked as a volunteer at St. James' and as the Chair and buyer for the gift shop at a busy NYC hospital. She later developed a practice as a consultant and executive assistant for private clients. Today, they enjoy the cultural and educational resources of Yale, read fiction and history, listen to classical music, love movies, and benefit from family and friends' visits.

Terry and MJ are lifelong Episcopalians. They were baptized and attended church school at historic St. James' and married there. MJ served on a number of parish committees. Terry was on the Vestry and served as Junior Warden. They rejoice in their new church home at Trinity.

Transitions

Harriett "Min" Swanson's life and legacy as a stalwart member of the Trifolium Group, quilters, and general pillar of the church was celebrated on December 6. She and her generation are woven into the fabric of this congregation. We join her family, especially **Sally Monroe** and **Bob Swanson**, in loving remembrance.

Helen Aubrey, long-time parishioner but confined to her home at Evergreen Woods for some time, recently passed away.

Long-time members **Holly and Mark Dillon** and their three children, **Elijah, Adrienne** and **Julianne**, have moved to Bolton, CT. We send our prayers along with them.

The Rev. Lucy LaRocca Is Officially the Vicar of Zion Episcopal Church

Quite a few Trinity parishioners attended the institution of Lucy as Vicar of Zion Episcopal Church. Bishop Laura Ahrens officiated, and Sharon and Father Bob Miner participated in

(Continued on page 4)

Gatherings

The Feast of the Epiphany – Bring on the light!

The wise men come, the Christmas season ends, and it's a time worthy of a celebration. So this year at Trinity we will revive an old tradition on an elegant note, beginning with hors d'oeuvres and libations in the Guild Room, followed by a procession to the church. The Choir will give an encore performance of *By Heaven's Light* (the Christmas Eve concert). Following the Eucharist, we will adjourn to the candlelit Parish Hall for an elegant dinner. There will be a modest charge to cover the cost of the evening. Mark your calendar for January 6th and stay tuned for details. Make your reservation by calling the office, please and thank you!



Newcomers Gathering at the Rectory on the 15th

All of those who have begun worshipping at Trinity in the last year are invited to a wine and cheese party from 3:00-5:00 pm. It is informal, with connections to be made and helpful information about Trinity and the Episcopal Church.

First Sunday Breakfast, January 8th

Start off the New Year with a new old Trinity tradition! Come to the Undercroft at 9:00 am and enjoy delicious creations from chefs **Mike Dodd** and **Mitch Rucinski**. The treat for January is Trinity McMuffin, juice, tea or coffee. \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. Your RSVP greatly helps the organizers to shop and cook with confidence! Please sign up in the foyer or call the office or e-mail michael.dodd@snet.net. Thank you!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, January 16th

The Rev. Dr. Eric Smith will speak at St. Therese Church, 105 Leetes Island Road, Branford, at 8:30 am. Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$5 for children over 5, and under 5 children are free. Tickets are available from Trinity's office or at the door. Proceeds go to the Shoreline Community Dining Room and Fuel Assistance for the Elderly.

Shoreline Men Over Sixty – This Is For You!

The Shoreline Men Over Sixty group provides an opportunity for shoreline senior men to enjoy friendship and brotherhood and a variety of interesting programs. There's a catered meal, an interesting speaker, and great conversation. They meet at the First Congregational Church of Madison on the first Friday of each month. Several Trinity men participate. Interested? Contact **Bob Roxbrough** at 203-421-3004. Enjoy!

Christmas Was Enchanting and Stirring

(**Transitions** Continued from page 3)

the clergy procession. Lucy was surrounded by family, friends, colleagues and parishioners, old and new. We're happy for Lucy!

Christmas Pageant Adults and children, singles and families, your Christmas season isn't complete unless you attend



the Christmas Pageant and supper. The children turned out another stellar theatre-in-the-round performance. The amazing team of **Rev. Sharon** and **Jen Zehler**, produced, directed, cast, choreographed, set decorated, and sang chorus. Our **own Ron Baldwin** accompanied on the piano, and together they pulled off this tiny miracle! Hooray for the children!! Our thanks go to **Maryann Allen** and her team of elves for a delicious supper.

The Wonderful Impossible

Linda and Stephen Clapp, mentors and colleagues of **Cathy and John Seibyl**, shared the telling of the story of how God became a baby, through Godly Play story boards and musical



Photo: Peter C. Otis

reflection. Linda is a certified Godly Play Instructor for the Northeast, and Stephen is a violinist from the Juilliard School in New York City. They are parishioners at St John's Episcopal Church in

Stamford. The candlelight, the oversized story boards detailed on the wall, and the absolutely beautiful violin music, created a peaceful and still room, with everyone intent on listening. We weren't prepared to be so stirred, and to have the stirrings linger. It was simply beautiful. Thank you!

Teachers Inspire, Communities Benefit

Trinity member **Judie Cavanaugh**, teaches art to 4th grade students at Worthington Hooker School, New Haven. She and artist/print maker Roxanne Faber Savage, worked with 24 students to create original Christmas ornaments for the 89th National Christmas Tree display in President's Park, Washington, DC. The theme of the ornaments was the CT State bird, the robin red breast.



One happy student artist!
Photo courtesy of Chris Volpe Photo

Twenty-three of the ornaments hung from the CT state tree in President's Park, and one of them helped to decorate the White House Visitor Center Christmas tree. Congratulations Judie et als!

Trinity's 'Alternative' Christmas

Angel Tree, Branford Fuel Assistance, the Food Pantry and Community Dining Room were all local beneficiaries of Trinity's First *Spirit of Christmas Giving*. The Heifer Project grew by individual contributions and a llama will be given to a family in Peru! This alternative Christmas fair continued for two weeks to give Trinity members a chance to take part. Eventually over \$1,600 was distributed in the community to help people through the winter. It made for some easy Christmas shopping and some warmth for our neighbors. Many Trinity volunteers made this first-ever event a success. Thank you, all!



Loretta Merlone, chicken, and Pam Bold, bee, made people smile!

Christmas continued

Outreach Ministry

Angel Tree Arrived In Time for Christmas

Wrapped Angel Tree packages took over the Parish House for a few days. Ninety children received presents on behalf of their parents who are incarcerated. The gifts were organized into family groups, packed in big boxes and delivered by Trinity volunteers. To everyone who gave so generously, thank you!



Mother/daughter delivery team,
Patty Kahlbaugh and Melissa Kreider



Father/son delivery team,
Mike and Patrick Freeman

The cast of stars behind the success of Angel Tree includes:
Other drivers:

The wrapping team:
The sorting team:

The phone team:

Great team work!

Paul Humphrey, Bob Stosse, & Sue Wharfe
Dru Dodd, Loretta Merlone
Gayle Calabrese, Adam Humphrey, Kris Lockwood,
Maryann Allen, Gayle Calabrese,
Ann Collier, Lisa Rucinski, Nancy Gillette, Alyson Humphrey,
Steve Sharma, Jen Zehler

Projects and Leaders for 2012

Project	Project Chair
Advent Open House	Maryann Allen
Angel Tree	Coordinator Needed
Branford Community Dining Room	Maureen Shea
Branford Festival Bake Sale	Coordinator Needed
Branford Food Pantry	Mike Dodd
Branford Fuel Assistance	Ann Collier
Church Fair	Coordinator Needed
Columbus House	Gayle Calabrese
Guatemala	Lisa Rucinski
Healthy Haiti Medical Supply Drive	Janet Constantino
Heifer Project	Loretta Merlone, Victoria Freeman
Hunger Walk Ct Food Bank	Steve Sharma
International Dinner	Steve Sharma and Katherine Rowe
Kiva	Coordinator Needed
Life Haven	Lisa Rucinski
Native American	Paul Humphrey
Outreach Ministry Fair (coffee hour)	Kim Humphrey
School Supply Drive for Guatemala or Fair Haven Shelter	Coordinator Needed
St. Paul's	Coordinator Needed
Thanksgiving Food Drive	Julius Feniola
Trinity's Closet	Dru Dodd
Minutes Taker	Janet Constantino

Continued on page 6

Outreach Ministry continued

By Kim Himphrey, Outreach Chair



Many thanks to all who supported, participated and prayed for the flurry of Outreach events in 2011! We are pleased to be able to continue this ministry to its fullest based upon your support.

All are welcome to the meetings You can participate in events and **not** feel obligated to come to the meetings.

Additionally, project coordinators are needed as indicated on the list on page 5. You will have the support you need to learn the ropes. Don't hesitate!

If you would like to participate or support any of the events, either contact the project coordinator, show up at a meeting, or contact me at kimshelper01@yahoo.com, or 203-927-9328.

Please save this 2012 outreach calendar!

January	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Discuss: International Dinner; St. Paul's Coat/Hat/Glove Drive; Outreach Coffee Hour Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; 2 nd Saturday Community Dining Room; Branford Food Pantry	February	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; Branford Food Pantry; International Dinner; Outreach Coffee Hour	March	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; 2 nd Saturday Community Dining Room; Branford Food Pantry; Heifer Project
April	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Discuss: Hunger Walk; Trinity's Closet; Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; Branford Food Pantry; Heifer Project	May	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Discuss: Branford Festival Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; 2 nd Saturday Community Dining Room; Branford Food Pantry; Trinity's Closet; Hunger Walk;	June	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Discuss: Church Fair & School Supplies Drive Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; Branford Food Pantry; Branford Festival
July	No meeting Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; 2 nd Saturday Community Dining Room; Branford Food Pantry	August	Note: Meeting day change, second to last Sunday Discuss: Finalize plan for Church Fair Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; Branford Food Pantry; School Supplies Drive-Guatemala	September	Note: Meeting day change, the week after the Church Fair Discuss: Healthy Haiti project Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; Branford Food Pantry
October	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Discuss: Food Drive, Advent Open House, & Trinity's Closet Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; Healthy Haiti Medical Drive; Branford Food Pantry	November	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Discuss: Angel Tree Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; 2 nd Saturday Community Dining Room; Trinity's Closet; Thanksgiving Food/Turkey Drive; Advent Open House; Branford Food Pantry	December	1 st Sunday Meeting, 11:30 Events: 1 st Monday Columbus House; Branford Food Pantry

To be scheduled in 2012: Branford Fuel Assistance, Kiva, Native American Event

Leadership

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present a slate of parishioners interested in becoming Vestry members and Diocesan Convention/Deanery Representatives. These names will be presented and voted on at our Parish Annual Meeting, later this month.

Officers are elected for one year. They are:

Senior Warden	Mark McElrath
Junior Warden	Sherry Jones
Treasurer	Still Looking
Assistant Treasurer	Katherine Rowe
Clerk of the Parish	Ellen Shirey

Vestry Representatives, 3-year terms:

Andy Campbell
Dru Dodd
Kelley Esposito

Diocesan Representatives, 3-year terms:

Jim Atkinson
Jay Pottenger
Lois Lehr – Alternate

Buildings and Grounds Ministry

Blame it on the rain...Saturated ground sent moisture into the Godly Play room and a mighty battle against mold began. New dehumidifiers are in place, which were kindly donated by parishioners, and the 20-year-old carpet was retired. Mike McGuinness lovingly made beautiful wooden bases for each of the bookcases (12 plus a bookcase to mount the dehumidifier on) so that there is better air circulation in the room. The room was given a professional cleaning and new carpet squares were installed. **Matt Radulski** says the room looks "biblical" now. The carpet tiles are the color of the desert – so many of the Old Testament stories of God's people take place in the desert. So it now appears that Trinity has a little piece of the desert for its children.

The Rectory also had a very bad mold infestation which required professional attention. Since then Trinity has purchased a floor blower which can be used whenever we have water where it isn't supposed to be.

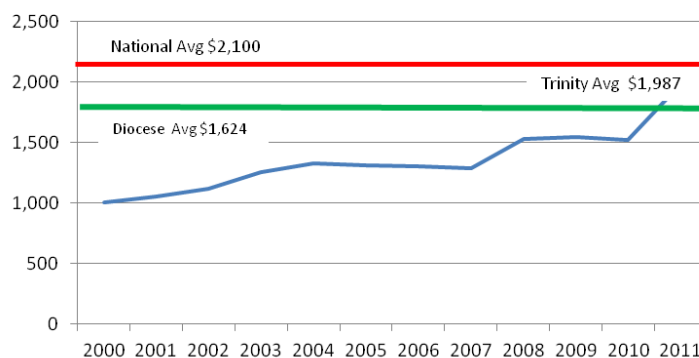
Finance Ministry

Stewardship: Annual Pledge Report

The focus of this year's Annual Appeal was increasing our funds for the Outreach Ministry. Our ideal goal is to be able to commit a tithe (10%) of our total giving to work in our community and in the world. Our 2011 line-item budget for Outreach was \$6,000. A true tithe would raise that to \$24,000. It was a lofty goal. To achieve it, we would need a 12% increase over last year's level of giving. Your response was phenomenal, 47 pledges increased over \$30,000 and new pledges accounted for \$12,000. As of this publication, we have \$226,500 (approx.) in actual and projected pledges, representing a considerable increase over last year.

The projected total of all contributions is nearly \$250,000 which includes those who give regularly but do not make a pledge and weekly cash contributions to the plate. The overall picture must be tempered with the loss of nearly \$20,000 in pledged income for various reasons (death, moved, inactive, or unfulfilled pledges). The Vestry will give priority to increasing our Outreach budget as much as possible while maintaining all of Trinity's ministries and the operations of the parish. It will be a good year and we can expect growth throughout 2012. Congratulations to all of us.

Average Annual Pledge



Pledges for 2012 brought the Trinity average pledge considerably above the CT Diocese average pledge, and closer to the national average pledge.

Budget Through November

Receipts	Expenses	Net
\$247,824	\$248,891	-\$1,067

Trinity Episcopal Church
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The Rev. Sharon Gracen, Rector
Ronald Baldwin, Organ Master &
Choir Director

Parish Office 203-488-2681

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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,
AT&T Channel 99
7:00 PM Sundays


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2012, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Eucharist	2	3	4 Bible Study	5	6 Feast of the Epiphany	7 
8 First Sunday Breakfast	9	10	11 Bible Study	12	13	14
15 Newcomer gathering 3-5pm	16 MLK Break- fast, 8:30am	17	18 Bible Study	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Bible Study	26	27	28
29 9:00 Wor- ship. Annual Parish Meeting	30	31				