



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

January 2013

In Remembrance of Archie

The Reverend Deacon Archibald

Hanna, PhD, was known simply as Archie at Trinity. For almost fifty years he lived in Branford and was ordained as a Perpetual Deacon in the Episcopal Church, serving in that capacity at Trinity Church until 2005. He was a veteran Marine, had a distinguished career in the library system at Yale, and published several books. A gentle man, Archie was loved, respected and known for his kindness, humility, great love of books and of Trinity. Many of the books in the Guild Room were donated by Archie to support his vision of a Trinity library.

At Archie's request before his death in 2010, a fund was established known as The Hannah Stained Glass Window Fund. Archie dreamt of a beautiful window over the entry doors to the church that could be seen by all who pass by and would let light pour into the balcony and the back of the church.

Archie would be thrilled to see his dream be realized.

Continued on page 2



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*May all God's
blessings be
yours in 2013.*

Inside this issue:

Worship Ministry	3
Spirituality Ministry	3
Parish Life Ministry	4
Advent to Christmas	5
Outreach Ministry	6
Finance Ministry	7
Leadership	7

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 Outreach programs; let your voice be heard!

Mark your calendar—January 27th, 2013

In Remembrance of Archie *continued*

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15th 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

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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



Artist Debora Coombs and her colleague with Rev. Sharon installing the temporary boards.

After many months of committee work to select the perfect artist who has the right design, the artists' work of creating the finished product is underway. It will take eight months to complete. The boards that fill the space now, carry the design in black and white.

Through the magic of Photo-shop below, we can see how the painted windows will look over the red doors.

Spectacular!



More information about the artist, <http://coombscriddle.com>, and the art of stained glass work, www.serpentinostainedglass.com



Worship Ministry

Sharing the Secret Code

When you help a visitor or a child to acclimate to the various books and papers that face them in the pew, you appreciate how quickly some of the transitions between book and paper happen, particularly at the outset of the service. Within five minutes those who are new in the pew are sending telepathic messages to each other, “where are we?”, finally turning to strangers whispering “help!” One parishioner said it, “we have to teach them the secret code!” Beginning in January, on one Sunday a month, Sharon will invite those who need help organizing the materials to stay behind after the service. It will only take a few minutes. It will also be a good opportunity to explain a few common glossary terms (like nar-thex!). If this makes the difference people need, then it can be hardwired among things we do to help newcomers feel at ease.

The Images of Advent Through Christmas Say It All!

Photos courtesy of Peter Otis



The Wonderful Impossible



Continued on page 5

Spirituality Ministry

Give yourself the gift of a little stress relief

Regular meditation returns January 10, Thursday evenings, at 6:30 pm in the Guild Room. No training or skills are necessary, just a desire to discover peace in stillness.

The Advent Series Continues January 16

The Advent Series focused on the themes of Advent as found in our hymns and the work of Dr. Brené Brown. We watched both of her TED talks about vulnerability and understanding shame. It was powerful stuff. As a result the group that attended has decided to read Dr. Brown's *Daring Greatly* and discuss it systematically. If you wish to be involved, get yourself a copy of the book and stay tuned. We will develop small groups so that we can build trust as we discuss this most important topic. We will meet at 6:30 pm in the Guild Room.

A Tribute to Trinity's Teachers

Teachers can change a child's life and remain in one's memory forever. Many people will say that most teachers are passionate about teaching, “their kids”, and their school. Teachers educate, love, build self-esteem, give hugs, protect, and worry. Yet, the working conditions are difficult. They deal with shrinking budgets, larger classes, bureaucracy, increasing regulations, drugs, poverty, hunger, parents, puberty and peer pressure. They are generally considered to be overworked and underpaid, yet many pay out of their own pockets for supplies they believe the children should have but the budget won't allow. Within our culture there are people who blame teachers for various societal problems, but the majority of us recognize the difference they make and honor them through National Teacher's Day, the Annual Teacher Recognition Celebration, Teacher Appreciation Week, Outstanding Teachers of America, and more. The US Post Office has stamps honoring the teachers of America.

“The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.”

Mark Van Doren

Now we can add hero. We more fully understand the depth of commitment, love and caring that teachers feel, and that they literally would give their lives to protect the children in their care. We have a few career teachers among us at Trinity. We honor you, we thank you, and we pray that God will always keep you and “your kids” safe.

Parish Life Ministry

Trinity Transitions

Donnie and Peter Farrell have been coming to Trinity for 22+ years. They have history, church family and memories to take with them now that they're moving to Spring Hill, Florida, to work on that golf game! Through the years three Trinity rectors have officiated at their family funerals, their daughters' wedding,



and baptisms of five grandchildren. Peter, who owned an energy-based company, and Donnie, who was a dental hygienist in a Branford dental practice, raised their two children—Kevin and Kristin—in Guilford and Branford. Donnie & Peter were always active at Trinity, continuing when they moved to Westbrook a few years back. Peter was on Vestry, and was a First Sunday Breakfast cook for many years. Donnie was a lector, and together they ushered. Peter said, "Everybody who goes to Trinity feels good. We're going to miss Trinity, but we'll be back for visits." Peter—who is one of 12 siblings—will undoubtedly be visiting his 97 year-old mother and family who live in Newtown, so we look forward to surprise visits from time to time. In the meantime, we wish them good health and as much family time as they can get!

Please join us in welcoming **Natalie Sofia Carnaroli** who arrived on Friday, December 7th, to **Meg and Mike Carnaroli**. First-time dad Mike (choir soloist), exclaimed, "she was a whopping 9lbs 10 oz, and was 22 inches long!" Congratulations!

We welcome into the Body of Christ: **Camden Michael Bray** son of **Stephen Matthew Bray** and **Marissa Lynn Bray**; **Benjamin James Cormandy**, godson of **Richard and Cyndy Coote**; and, Audrey Elizabeth and Alexander Samuel Lenda, grandchildren of **Carol and Barry Schaller**.

We remember **Angelica Dunham Bentley**, a long-time Trinity member. A service of remembrance will be held January 12th. May her soul and all the souls of the departed, rest in peace. Amen.

Trinity Book Group, January 2

Silent Rebellion by Christopher Metzger will be discussed in the Guild Room at 7 pm. This is the story of an 18 year-old member of a peace-loving Amish community who receives a draft notice. He's arrested for draft evasion and found guilty. If he renounces his church teachings and reports for duty, the sentence will be suspended. What will he choose?

Twelfth Night Celebration, January 5

At 6:00pm the festivities begin in the Guild Room with hors d'oeuvres and libations. We will then process to the church for a special worship service. The choir will give an encore performance of their Christmas Eve concert in place of a sermon. Following the Eucharist, we will adjourn to the candlelit Parish Hall for an elegant dinner featuring baby spinach with mandarin orange and red onion salad with poppy seed dressing, boneless chicken breast with a spicy peach sauce, rice pilaf and braised carrots. Please use the signup sheet in the foyer or call the office to let the chefs know how many are attending. A free will offering will be taken. See you there!

First Sunday Breakfast, January 6

Gather together at 9:00 am in the undercroft for a delicious breakfast and fellowship. On the menu is French toast and sausage, 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. Thank you!

Martin Luther King Celebration, January 21

The largest celebration on the shoreline will be held from 8:00 am - 10:00 am, at St. Therese Church Hall, 105 Leetes Island Road, Branford. The proceeds from the breakfast go to the Community Dining Room and to Branford Fuel Assistance. The guest speaker is Kevin A. Myatt, Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Yale-New Haven Hospital and Health System. Kevin is an enthusiastic speaker who frequently provides motivational messages to public and private organizations. For tickets or information, please contact Mary Ann Pellegrino, 203-467-9180.



A whole lot of people turned up at the Rectory for The Third Annual Holly Party, Rev. Sharon and Peter's way of saying "thank you" to the congregation. An astounding array of cookies from biscotti to shortbread, chocolate and spice were served up with hot cider or mulled wine. A good time was had by all!



Advent Through Christmas: the images say it all!

Bring in the poinsettias, quick change to Christmas!



The Christmas Pageant



Christmas *continued*

The special **Family Service** is the kind of thing that children who attend year after year, will remember as being part of the family Christmas tradition, hopefully to continue with their own children.

Jen Conlon played the violin. **Ron Baldwin** stepped away from the organ to read a passage from The Velveteen Rabbit.



Sharon, Peter Schuller and **Jen Zehler** told the story of the planning process for the first Christmas, as told by the children of St. Paul's Church in Auckland, New Zealand.



At the late service, when our hearts needed to soar, they did. Choir, Ron, soloists, *thank you* for helping us to find Christmas.



Outreach Ministry

Please join us in welcoming **Janet Constantino** as the new Chair of Outreach. Janet has served as an active member at committee meetings and participates in a number of outreach programs. It's simple for Janet, "Helping the poor and downtrodden is my passion. Outreach is just my thing." Janet lives what she says. An Advanced Practitioner Nurse, she serves as Director of Nursing at Leeway in New Haven (AIDS care). Annually, she goes to Haiti to tend the sick and the poor through Global Health Ministry.



Our thanks go to predecessor **Kim Humphrey**, for her passion, leadership and organization. Kim, we know you can't wait to finish your masters degree and we can't wait to celebrate with you!

Guatemala Great Sponsorship News!

Trinity's sponsored youths, Jonathan Fernando Lopez Rogel (7th grade) and Iris Catalina Maroquin (10th grade) have written to thank Trinity for their Christmas gifts. Jonathan chose a USB memory stick. He writes that it will be useful. Catalina chose a beautiful bag. Both students have graduated from their current grades and are continuing to be successful.

Lisa Davis-Rucinski and **Mitch Rucinski's** sponsored student, Iris Marleny Flores Aquino, has successfully graduated from school and is working with a lawyer. She wrote a wonderful letter, "I want to thank you so much for the great opportunity you have given me to continue the good work. I think I reached my goal because of you, that's why I feel so happy. I am so excited waiting for my graduation ceremony. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, with love, Iris."

Save the date! February 3, Outreach town hall meeting and brunch

Outreach is an engine for the developing life at Trinity. Much has changed since Rev. Sharon has been with us; the Outreach budget has grown to a \$15,000 line item, committee membership has greatly increased, and the number of programs are more varied.

The work that we do outside of our doors is growing and the organization to maintain all of the projects is as well. There are lots of questions; how should the budget be allocated? What about those projects not in the budget? Are we doing enough? Too much? To provide time for reflection on this important ministry, the February 3 worship services will be dedicated to the topic, a Town Hall kind of conversation within the context of worship. Please plan to be a part.

Outreach *continued*

Trinity put a little joy in Christmas for local children in need,

To prove many hands make light work, Trinity, Venture Crew and Troop 424 Scout hands came together to sort, wrap, route and deliver 65 angel tree presents. The entire effort was led and coordinated by **Pat-**

rick Freeman (above with wife **Gina**), who did a masterful job at this first-time experience.



Much appreciation also goes to the delivery folks: **Cindy and Rich Coote, Maryann Allen, Sue Wharfe, and Pattie Kahlbaugh.**

And, a big thank you also goes to other generous parishioners who took care of some gifts for kids in need at The Branford Counseling Center. You surely made Christmas brighter for those families.

Many local families enjoyed turkey dinners



Peter Schuller with Wendy Cowles, President of The Branford Food Pantry, look over a sea of boxes of food.

Outreach meeting minutes may be found on the parishioner site, under Minutes and More, and in hard copy in the office. Meetings are open as always—you're invited !

Finance Ministry

Celebrate our scholars!

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.

Legacy Fund Closing Tally, Legacy Society Launched

As of December 19th, The Legacy Fund has received \$30,000 toward the \$50,000 matching gift. To celebrate this important step toward a sustainable future for Trinity, the first gathering of the inaugural members of the Legacy Society will take place on February 10th, 2013, at the Rectory. We will raise a glass of bubbly to Trinity's bright future.

2013 giving envelopes are on the table in the Parish Hall foyer. Please pick up your book. If you do not find your name, please use the signup sheet to request envelopes and then remember to check again the following Sunday—they will magically appear. Giving envelopes may be used by anyone who regularly gives, whether a pledger or not.

Leadership

At the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting, we will offer thanks to those members of the Vestry who have served their terms and are now retiring: **Mitch Rucinski, Maureen McGuinness and Steve Sharma.** Junior Warden **Sherry Jones** is also stepping down. We thank each of them for their conscientious service.

Mitch, Maureen and Steve, along with **Sandy Baldwin** and **Martha Monico** served as the Nominating Committee for those who will fill big shoes. Their work has brought some exciting new people into the leadership of our parish:

- Vestry positions, **Terry Kron, Ed Monico and Kathy Sanchez**
- Interim Treasurer, **Michael Freeman** has agreed to a one-year term.

We thank the committee for their excellent work and judgment.

The 106th Trinity Church Fair

Calling All Crafters!

Believe it or not, we are already thinking about the 106th Trinity Church Fair, September 7, 2013. This year, we are organizing a Trinity craft group to create unique and fabulous items to sell at the fair.

All skill levels are welcome to join. All you need is enthusiasm and ideas! You can view some of the brainstorming ideas at <http://pinterest.com/peggyesposito/church-craft-ideas>. If you have an idea, please send it to me and I will add it to the board.

In addition to crafters, we need supplies so please look through your attics and closets. Just to name a few items we need:

- fabric
- ribbon and yarn scraps
- baby food jars
- old picture frames
- mason jars
- scrabble tiles
- building blocks
- wood scrap

Our group will meet on Monday evenings and possibly an afternoon group as well. Start date and frequency to be determined.

Fire up your glue guns folks, and contact me at **peggyesposito@yahoo.com** or call 203-584-0443.



Sunday morning after the snowfall — a picture postcard!



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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
And AT&T Channel 99
7:00 PM Sundays

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January 2013, Special Dates

every day calendar, [trinity branford.org/news](http://trinitybranford.org/news)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!	2 Trinity Book Group, 7 pm	3	4	5 Twelfth Night Dinner, 6 pm
6 First Sunday Breakfast; Celebrate our Scholars Coffee Hr	7	8 12 pm Spiritual- ity	9	10 Meditation 6:30 pm	11	12 Angie Bentley service, 1:00pm
13	14	15 Vestry, 7 pm	16 6:30 pm, Dr. Brene Brown book discussion, Spiritu- ality	17 Meditation 6:30 pm	18	19
20 Youth Group 4:30 pm	21 MLK celebration 8-10 am,	22	23	24 Meditation 6:30 pm	25	26
27 9 am Worship; Annual Parish Meeting after	28	29	30	31 Meditation 6:30 pm		