



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

June, 2012

The greatest gift I
ever had came from
God; I call him Dad!

~Author Unknown

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Homefront Program Returns to Branford

By Dottie Packer, Volunteer Coordinator

My twin brother Walter, now deceased, was living alone in a Branford home that desperately needed repair that he couldn't afford or physically do himself, when in 2003 he became a recipient of The Homefront Program. Walter was so grateful but the repairs to his home were the least of this uplifting experience. Walter was a good man who needed a little help, and I see other good people in Branford who need the same help. In its 25th year, 75 homeowners across the state received free quality of life home repairs through The Homefront Program, and this year a Branford homeowner was once again included.



Left to right: Dottie Packer, Bob Denhardt, Scott Denhardt, Rev. Sharon

On May 5th, 50 skilled and non-skilled volunteers between the ages of 14 to 70, showed up on Collins Drive in Branford to paint the exterior of the home, replace some

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From the Rector



Dear Trinity Friends,

Years ago when I first came across the Confirm not Conform program for Episcopal youth, I felt that there was a real value within. It had been created by a congregation in the Bay area for their own large teenaged membership. It addressed head on many of the barriers to church that many 21st century teens have. They are smart, savvy and think for themselves. They are not likely to follow tradition and doctrine just because someone in authority tells them to.

Last fall, my original impression was affirmed as eight Trinity teenagers began to come together and wrestle with the difference between what they have been told to

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From the Rector

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believe and what they actually believe in their own hearts, minds and experience. Since those first meetings, the Confirm not Conform class has blossomed into theological thinkers and friends. It has been my joy and privilege to walk this journey with them. It would not have been possible without the enthusiastic presence of **Jen Zehler** (is she everywhere?) and the mentors.

Now as we prepare to present these young adults to the Bishop for confirmation, it is with pride and affection and great hope for upcoming CnC groups. These kids have paved the way and found surprising treasures within themselves. They now know what they believe, have a better sense of who they are and what God might be doing with their lives. They are an example for all of us.

Candidates

Jillian Denhardt
Robert Denhardt
Julius Feniola
Adam Humphrey
Ryan Monico
Emma Pottenger
Jack Pottenger
Katelin Rowe

Mentors

Judy Cavanaugh
Bill Bray
Terry Kron
John Seibyl
Lois Lehr
Charlene Longo
Blake Lehr
Ann Collier

Also being presented to the Bishop for Reception into the Episcopal Church will be :

MaryAnn Allen
Judy Cavanaugh
Peggy Esposito
Cynthia Frawley
Maureen Shea

What a great day to become an Episcopalian!

Peace,

Sharon +

Nonconformists but planning to be confirmed



L to r : Jack, Katelin, Ryan, Emma, Bob, Adam, Julius, Jillian

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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Sherry Jones, Junior Warden

Ellen Shirey, Clerk of the Parish

Vestry and Council of Ministry members, see Website.

Worship Ministry

By Sandy Baldwin



June is the storm before the summer calm, in a manner of speaking. June 3rd is Trinity Sunday and so we do it up big. It is the end of extraordinary time, before settling down into the green season of ordinary time after Pentecost. We will return to the Prayer Meditation (many of you have been asking about that).

Ordinarily the next week would be simple, regular worship, but this year Bishop Laura Ahrens is coming and this means the confirmations and receptions will be the center of worship. We will get to enjoy Bishop Laura's joyous presence, hear her preach and celebrate.

Then, the green altar hangings return, the choir goes on summer sabbatical, life takes on a summer-on-the-shoreline pace. The summer Eucharistic Prayer will come from the *Enriching Our Worship* collection, but it's nothing that we haven't used before.

Welcome to Ministry!

The Worship Ministry welcomes several new lectors and ushers to the lay worship team.

8:00 am service: new lectors **Barry Schaller** and **Jen Zehler**.

10 o'clock service: new ushers **Holly Maclean** and **Scott Hoes**; new lectors **Pat Barbis**, **Janet Constantino**, **George Fouser**, **Terry Haight** and **Cheever Tyler**.

The Worship Ministry is looking for new ushers and acolytes. If you are interested please speak with either Rev. Sharon or myself. We will train and mentor you. Being part of the Worship Ministry is very rewarding for individuals and enhances the weekly worship services at Trinity.

Reminder!

Sunday, June 17, there is only an 8 o'clock service because of the Branford Festival.

Homefront *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

windows, repair drywall badly damaged from a water leak in the ceiling, and tidy the grounds. The volunteers came together through outreach programs at Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, First Baptist Church and First Congregational Church, under the banner of "Churches Unite in Branford." Stacey, the homeowner, said: "I knew this was going to happen but once people started to arrive and work began, I became overwhelmed."

We want to continue this program in Branford but we need your help identifying seniors, those with disabilities, single parents, and single income folks, who may be in need of quality of life home repairs. Repairs are completed in one day, which is always the first Saturday of May.



Applications are now being accepted for next year. For more information, call 1-800-887-4673 or go to homefrontprogram.org.

My heartfelt thanks go to **Scott Denhardt**, our House Captain (a/k/a General Contractor), who organized the materials and work, and **Pam Bold**, our Crew Chief, who joined with me to organize this event.

Also, much gratitude goes to local businesses that generously donated materials for the repairs, as well as food to fuel the volunteers. They were:

Advanced Paper Company, Branford Lumber Company, Born in America, Cohen's Bagel Company, Dunkin Doughnuts, Jersey Mike's Subs, Shelley's Garden Center, Stop & Shop, and Subway.

Walter would so approve!

Parish Life Ministry

Trinity Grounds: Service with a Smile!



There are so many adjectives to describe these young people who have dubbed themselves *Trinity Grounds* (a/k/a Jen's Coffee Crew). They are efficient, organized, attentive to customers, smiling, sweet and adorable. Did we mention impressive? Under **Jen Zehler's** supervision, the crew has learned to set up coffee hour refreshments and food, serve coffee and tea and delectable goodies with a smile, and cleanup as well. Jen said, "They do this without me now that they know what they're doing." Featured left to right they are: **Juliana Dillon, Maggie Sheppard, Sophie Campbell, and Adrienne Dillon.** The young trainee shown here is **Claudia Campbell** and another is **Daniel Rowe.** Thank you *Trinity Grounds* for volunteering to give us such super service!

The 3rd Annual New England Lobster Dinner at The Branford Festival

Saturday, June 16, 5:00-8:30 pm



Enjoy lobster, steamers, corn on-the-cob, coleslaw, roll, and your choice of beverage, in Trinity's Parish Hall or picnic on the Green while you listen to the concert! Tickets \$25.00 each. Prefer prepaid orders but walk-ins are welcome. All proceeds go to Branford Cares. To purchase tickets call Mitch Rucinski at 203-481-2230. See you at the Festival!

Welcome to Trinity!

Scott Hoese and Holly Maclean are among the new



folks who have joined us at Trinity Church, worshipping most often at the 10 a.m. Sunday service and recently began helping as ushers. Scott was raised in the Baptist faith, but Holly has an Episcopal background, and when they recently returned to Branford and saw the red doors of Trinity, "Our eyes and hearts just opened up."

They have found Trinity very welcoming and particularly enjoy the sermons. Both are concentrating on continuing their education; Scott is taking an online detective and law enforcement course, and Holly is studying to enhance her retail background. They both enjoy bowling, both duckpins and ten pins. They also like volunteering and helping people out. Among other interests, Scott spends a lot of time pitching in at Sarah's Cupboard.

Please join us in welcoming Scott and Holly.

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Christian Education Ministry

Jesus has arrived!

By Cathy Seibyl

Trinity has recently acquired a new "Jesus Doll", a wonderful visual reminder of Jesus' constant presence in our daily lives for the past two months, Jesus has been on a rotating schedule visiting families of children in our Godly Play classes. He travels well in a back pack and there is also a journal where children and parents can chronicle their experiences with him. He is incredibly huggable and loving. If you are interested in having Jesus spend some time in your home, no matter your age, please contact **Martha Monico**, Chair of Christian Education, or one of the Godly Play teachers.



What the children say:

"First we played hair salon. Then we went shopping and finally we watched TV together."

"I played video games with Jesus. It was fun to have Jesus."

"It was fun having Jesus. My brother and I played the Xbox360 and our #3DDs. We also took turns sleeping with Jesus. We took him to Grandpa and Grandma's house. We went fishing with him."

".....then I kissed him and hugged him."

"I took Jesus in the waves and took him to my boat. I hold him in my arms. Then I put him on the rock. I hold him collecting shells with me. I gave him some of my jingle shells. Then I hugged him, he felt like " Thank you. Gabe"

Words come up short for Trinity's gratitude

Cathy Seibyl, who has served as the Godly Play Director for the last 11 years, officially relinquished that role with a sweetly sad but happy heart.

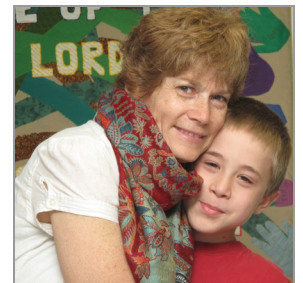


Under Cathy's leadership, Godly Play was selected as a non-traditional approach to helping children understand Christianity in their lives. Any adult listening and watching to how parables and stories are shared will appreciate how it is that children sit quietly still and listen.

"When I conduct a Godly Play lesson there are always three players in the room: the children, the teachers and God. We feast, converse, wrestle, and play—all of us. My responsibility as a teacher is to give the children the stories, the tools of language and the creative opportunities of play to further their personal exploration of God and the sacred. Indeed, the classroom is a most holy playground."

Cathy has taught the method to all of Trinity's Sunday School teachers over the years. Many Trinity children will carry with them memories of Cathy's soft voice and gentle presence and how much they loved to go to Sunday School. Her leadership and devotion has supported this program and her legacy will continue to enrich the spiritual lives of many children.

Cathy's successor is **Jen Zehler**. During the week, Jen is a full-time kindergarten teacher at Breakthrough Magnet School in Hartford as a PreK teacher of 22 three-and-four-year-olds. Jen said, "I feel like my work with children is my calling both at school and Trinity. To quote Ghandi, 'If we are to reach real peace in the world, we shall have to begin with the children.' As one of their spiritual guides I am blessed to be called to share in this vision."



Jen has completed the official Godly Play training program and has been working with Cathy and the other teachers through a transition period. We are sure the Holy Spirit will be with Jen, always.

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Outreach Ministry

Bake Sale at The Branford Festival

By Nancy Gillette, Coordinator

Our bake sale tables at The Branford Festival need Trinity's famous home-baked cookies and desserts. Easily handled portions can be ready-to-eat, and maybe they'll buy another to go home! The sale starts at 6:00 pm on Friday, June 15, and continues Saturday from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. That's if the baked goods last that long!

We're in need of sales assistance, as well. If you can help, please contact **Nancy Gillette** at **nancylgillette@yahoo.com** to learn available time slots or call the office, 203-488-2681. Thank you!

Trinity Treks Walk Against Hunger

By Steve Sharma

Thank you for helping us raise close to \$500 to meet our goal! Walkers included the **Humphrey** family, the **Howell** family and the **Sharma** family. Connecticut Food Bank distributes food to approximately 600 food-assistance programs, including Branford.

Branfordcares.org is live!



BRANFORDCARES
community taking care of its own

As of this writing Trinity parishioners are nabbing the "firsts" in the online event listings: first business, public event, and matching dollars. How wonderful is that? Many of you are talking about your events, so don't forget to add them to the Web site. Share your ideas, inspire others!

Visit the Branford Cares tent at the Branford Festival and pick up a **branfordcares.org** button to wear until Labor Day, helping to raise awareness. Also, please visit the *Branford Cares* Facebook page, "like" the page, and join the conversation. The "buzz" about Branford Cares is starting around town. It can only get louder with more voices joining in. Keep talking!

Parish Life *continued*

(Continued from page 4)

Trinity Transitions

On Pentecost Sunday we welcomed into the Body of Christ, **Carter Starks** and **Cindy Sheppard**.

Congratulations to the Graduates

A good number of Trinity's young people are making that important transition from high school to the next phase of their lives' journeys; **Matthew Collier, Jillian Denhardt, Melissa Kreider, Patrick Monico, Will Potenger, Mark and Sarah Williams**. Blessings to all of you and may God bless the road that carries you.

First Sunday Breakfast, June 3

This month's menu is Eggs McTrinity, V-8 or orange juice, and coffee. 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.

Trinity Book Group, June 6

Our last book group gathering of this season is Wed, June 6th. Leo Barbaro will be facilitating a discussion of the classic, *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald. All are welcome!

Christian Education *continued from page 5*

Rev. Sharon blessed the Godly Play Worship Centers with parents, children and teachers at hand. Cathy Seibyl generously

donated more Godly Play Stories, all of which were on display and blessed.



Finance Ministry

In Gratitude for the Happy Hands:

Many Thanks from Carol Schaller

Sunday, May 20, 2012, was memorable at Trinity Church for me and for many. We had two well attended receptions for the kick-off of the Legacy Society. Many thanks to the committee who worked hard on the project. Legacy Fund Trustees: **Dave Pearson, Mitch Rucinski, Julie Anderson, Perdita Norwood, Rev. Sharon Gracen**, yours truly, and trusted scribe, **Bill Baskin**; also, brochure designer, **Ann Freeman**.



Left to right: Barry & Carol Schaller, Perdita & Otty Norwood

Regarding the receptions, many special thanks to Co-Chair **Perdita Norwood** for her devotion to task and unfailingly wonderful choices; **Sherry Molaskey-Jones** for outstanding food contributions; **Barry Schaller** and **Otty Norwood** for wearing their red bow-ties (!) and delightful beverage service (and hard work in set-up and clean-up); **Peter Otis** for rental delivery and great photography; **Mike Dodd** for rental return; **Peter Schuller** for pitching in wherever needed; **Lois Lehr, Sandy Baldwin, Stephanie Peck, Jeanne McParland, Roz Jones** and **Andree Pierson**, for delicious additions to the *La Cuisine* fine fare; **Martha Monico** for the children's table; **Jen Zehler** for helping with that and doing the coffee service with two enchanting little helpers, and then making the kitchen sparkle again; **Mitch Rucinski** for pitching in everywhere and saying, "And what else can I do to help?"; and **Jane Dougherty** for efficiency in the office, **Katherine Rowe** for writing checks, **Nancy Williams** for picking up where we left off in the clean-up.

I want to extend special thanks to our dear Rector for her enthusiastic participation in our morning in

Provence theme with her French red silk shawl and floral skirt, having just delivered deeply inspirational, Christian, American, Trinity heritage and legacy-themed sermons with value systems inspired by the great (French) philosophers. We know what counts.

The Legacy Society has now been debuted and is in very early development. Your feedback is invaluable. Thank you to everyone at Trinity Church for your loving support. *Je t'adore!*

Carol

New Features to the Stop & Shop Program

by Cathy Seibyl

Have you noticed that a Stop & Shop gas station has opened up on the Boston Post Road near Cedar Street in Branford?

Turn your groceries into gas and help Trinity Church at the same time! For every dollar you spend for groceries at Stop & Shop you earn one point towards Stop & Shop Gas Rewards. Save 10 cents/gallon for 100 points earned, 20 cents for 200 points, 30 cents for 300 points etc., up to \$2.20 /gallon.

Of course, if you pay for your groceries with Stop & Shop gift cards, 5% of the face value of the gift card will also go towards Trinity Church. Sounds like a win-win situation for everyone.

Stop & Shop gift cards are sold at the end of each Sunday service in the back of the church, and weekdays during church office hours. Cards are available in denominations of \$20, \$50 or \$100.

Remember that gift cards can be used as a payment method at the Stop & Shop gas station as well as for Peapod deliveries.

A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

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

Parish Office 203-488-2681

e-mail: 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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2012, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Trinity Sunday; 1st Sunday bkfst	4	5	6 7pm Trinity Book Group	7	8	9
10 Bishop Laura here	11	12	13	14	15 Bake Sale; Branford Cares kickoff!	16 Lobster Dinner
17 one ser- vice, 8 am; Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30