



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

June 2013

*Where there is
no Vision,
people perish.*

Proverbs

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A Summer of Caring in Branford

The successful debut of *Branford Cares* in 2012 was, in no small way, due to the loving and creative response of

Trinity Church. Of the \$60,000 raised in last summer's campaign, Trinity was either responsible for, or connected to, at least a third of the total. What amazing leadership!

Last year, *Branford Cares* was creating on-the-fly, making it up as we went along. Now, there is a well-defined Mission and Vision. (see pg 5)

~ \$40,000 was sent to the Basic Needs Fund, which is administered through Branford Counseling Center. Hundreds of families were helped with housing expenses, food, and helping to keep the heat on in lots of homes.

~ The Community Dining Room needed a new commercial dishwasher. The money



was available without a cumbersome grant application.

~ The Branford Food Pantry, Branford Heating Assistance Fund, the Clothing

Bank, and Orchard House, all received checks to help with what they do.

Now, we're set to do it again, through the 2013 summer fund-raising campaign. You are all challenged to be a creative part of *Branford Cares*, just by having some fun. Gather friends and neighbors for a block party, cook-out, or just dessert. Tell them why you are doing it, and invite them to join in. Bake sales, lemonade stands, dinner parties, anything you can think of will help our Branford neighbors, and will help to build a stronger community. **Wendy Cowles, Pam Bold, and Dottie Packer** (lt to rt above), kicked off 2013 with \$1,500 from the First Annual Branford Arts & Crafts Show. Let's start posting

(Continued on page 5)

Basic Dental Care for Everyone

Last fall, members of *Branford Cares* learned about the dire need for dental services for adults and children who are clients of Branford Counseling Center (BCC). Tackling a dental initiative for children became *Branford Cares* first process to impact basic health services. Led by **Bonnie McKirdy**, *Branford Cares* has been engaged in gathering together and directing conversation with local dentists, school-based health clinics, Yale-New Haven Hospital, and various state agencies, to build a picture of oral health in Branford. The most exciting things so far are: (a) a group of local dentists have told BCC that they are available for people in dental crisis; and (b) working in partnership with the Branford Early Childhood Collaborative and the East Shore Health District, a graduate school level intern will conduct a survey to gather data to support future program needs in Branford.



From The Rector

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15th of the current month. Please e-mail to **communications@trinitybranford.org** Photographs are welcome. It is respectfully requested material not be formatted (no bolds, underlines, bullets, truncated lines, unusual spacing, etc). Articles and event notices will be reviewed by an editor. Editorial rights are reserved for clarity and to fit space constraints.

Messenger Contributors

<i>Features</i>	Rev. Sharon, Ann Freeman
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A color version of the current issue is on **trinitybranford.org/news**, along with archived issues and photo albums.

Trinity Church Leadership

Senior Warden:	Mark McElrath
Junior Warden:	Rodney Hayes
Parish Clerk:	Ellen Shirey
Treasurer:	Michael Freeman
Assistant Treasurer:	Katherine Rowe

Vestry

Andy Campbell, Janet Daley, Dru Dodd, Kelley Esposito, Terry Kron, Ed Monico, Peter Otis, Kathy Sanchez, Carol Schaller

Staff

Parish Administrator:	Jane Dougherty
Sexton:	Nancy Williams



The calendar has had us in a frenzy since New Years. There was very little time in between the Feast of the Epiphany and Ash Wednesday. Lent seemed to fly by, and suddenly it was Holy Week: that season unto itself with the holiest of days. Easter came with a flourish, Hallelujahs everywhere. Easter is the longest *season* of the year—seven

Sundays and the Feast of Pentecost, followed by Trinity Sunday—and then we can take a breath and settle into Ordinary Time. The Sundays after Pentecost are not a *season*; they have their own color, green, but they are just ordinary time. It is unusual to find ourselves in ordinary time so early; and that means by the time Advent rolls around, we'll be ready for a change.

But for now, let us enjoy the simplicity of the green Sundays. Plant and tend, watch the sunsets late in the day, eat light simple meals, hang out with people you love, sit by the water. See God in all of these ordinary things, in ordinary time.

Peace,

Sharon +

Worship Ministry

Enriching Our Worship is a small book with new(er) Eucharistic Prayers. It was prepared for use in the Episcopal Church in 1997, and approved by the General Convention. In the last two summers, we have used Prayers 1 and 2. This summer, we will venture into Prayer 3, which reclaims the ancient tradition of Jesus, the Word, as Wisdom, the divine wisdom that created all things.

Lovely images of creation weave through the prayer; Jesus' disciples are called "friends." One notable difference is that the people (meaning all of you) join in the final sentence of the prayer: "Blessed are you now and forever. *AMEN*."

The Eucharistic Prayer will be in the book rack in each pew, beginning the first week of June. Your reflections and feedback on it are welcome.

Continued on page 5

REMINDER!

One service only at 8:00 AM on Sunday, June 16, Branford Festival weekend.

Do something special for dad on Father's Day!

Christian Education Ministry



Martha Monico, Chair

Trinity Fire/Emergency Safety

On Sunday, **June 2**, Trinity will hold a fire drill to practice emergency evacuation of our buildings. While the church school teachers review evacuation procedures in our meetings, this is a chance for the entire church to practice what to do in an emergency situation.

When the alarm sounds, church school teachers will lead the children out of the building using the nearest, safe exit.

Teachers will take the children to the front steps of the Town Hall building to wait for parents or family members. If you have children downstairs, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GO DOWNSTAIRS AND GET THEM. Go to the Town Hall steps to await meeting up with your child/children.

Parishioners in the sanctuary are to follow the instructions of the Rector and Ushers, which is to go out the nearest safe exit and wait on the Green.

Godly Play, by Jen Zehler

Beginning and ending our school year with a new tradition of a family cookout following the 10:00 AM service is a great way for families to connect and get to know each other. Since Sunday, **June 9** is the last day of regular Sunday School, we will have a family cookout on the lawn. Trinity will supply the hot dogs and lemonade; and we ask that you bring a side dish. All are welcome to attend.



Summer school will begin on Sunday, **July 7** during the 10:00 AM service. We'll be outside on the lawn, weather permitting! All children, ages 3-11, are welcome to attend. Our theme will center on connecting to the peace within. The children will be learning about meditation and how to deal with anger and frustration. They will hear stories from other cultures, and create a peace quilt. Middle and high school youth will assist.



Youth Group, by Jen Zehler

We were busy all of May. Martha and I joined **Julius Feniola**, **Ryan Monico**, and **Sophia Campbell** to work for the *Raise The Roof* project, organized by Madison Cares. Despite the rain, we had a great time. It is good to know that, after all the positive energy that went into building the house, we helped to create a home for a family in need in New Haven.



Everyone looks very capable at carpentry!

Jen Zehler's photo journal on trinitybranford.org/news

We also cooked and sold hot dogs at the Branford Arts & Crafts Show. Crafters and customers get very hungry, so we sold out! A big shout out to our youth, and Chef **Peter Hayes**, for a job well done! We raised \$150.00 for Branford Cares! Hot diggity dog!

We have held our final youth group gathering for the school year. This year's theme was bullying. We went to see the movie "42", the story of Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to play in American Major League Baseball, since his story connected to our theme. The movie provided rich discussion over pizza at Marcos. Here are some of the comments from our insightful youth:

"The movie was about how we are all the same deep down. I don't understand how people could treat another person like that when they know they wouldn't be able to handle it themselves. He (Robinson) earned a lot of respect from his teammates by not fighting back."

"I couldn't stop watching it. I was totally into it. It was really great!"

"I like how they didn't favor anyone. They kept the focus on playing baseball, earning money, and winning."

I think our youth are great! All of them agreed that our gatherings have been informative, engaging and transformative (my words, their feelings). I totally agree!

Parish Life Ministry



Peter H. Hayes, Chair

The next major Parish Life event is the 4th Annual Lobster Dinner, on **June 15**, the Saturday of the Branford Festival. The New England style dinner includes: lobster, steamers, corn, coleslaw and beverage. The \$25 tickets may be purchased online using credit card/PayPal at trinitybranford.org/events, and by check or cash from **Mitch Rucinski** or me, at church. Advance purchases are requested, so Mitch will have an idea of how many lobsters to buy.

Also, volunteers are needed. I would like to see lots of new and smiling faces (along with the “experienced” workers from previous dinners), to help shuck corn, make coleslaw, cook and crack lobsters, serve, and clean up. It’s a labor of love, and it’s a lot of fun! For newcomers to Trinity, it’s also a great way to meet other parishioners. If you would like to join the fun, contact me at parishlife@trinitybranford.org, or Mitch at lobsterdinners@trinity-branford.org.

Trinity Transitions

We welcome into the Body of Christ through Baptism **Krystl Armen Novak** (mom), **Madilyn Rose Novak**, and **Seth Robert Novak**. Including dad, **Greg Novak**, we welcome the entire Novak family to Trinity.



Congratulations to **Neil** and **Sara Anglemire** on their recent marriage. Their wedding was in Pennsylvania, surrounded by family and friends; but Neil’s work has settled them in Branford. Together, they have chosen Trinity as their church. Expect to see them soon as Trinity’s

newest ushers and lectors.

A funeral was held in May for **Edgar Lawrence Bousquet**, a long-remembered parishioner. May his soul, and all those of the departed, rest in peace. Amen.



By Dottie Packer

One Fair down ...

Another Trinity triumph! Hundreds of dollars were raised for *Branford Cares* by the Trinity team, at the First Annual Branford Arts & Crafts Fair. The team included the Crafts Group, Quilters Group, Youth Group, behind-the-scenes-helping group, and parishioners who shopped! Thank you to all.

Peggy Esposito, thank you so much for your passion and persistence in leading the Trinity Craft Group. Trinity’s craft tables were amazing!



Hotdog staff: Nothing but the best!! Sold out! How do you top that?

Trinity is all about love. You have helped raise money that will help less fortunate neighbors and spread goodwill throughout our community. (See the photo journal on trinitybranford.org/news)

...One Fair to go! Save the date—Saturday, Sept 7.

Good quality furniture donations, all summer long, help to raise thousands of dollars towards the annual church fundraiser. Pickup service provided! Email trinityfair@trinitybranford.org. Watch for Fair details in the July/August *Messenger*.



Pam Bold (left) and **me**, picking up **Mike Freeman’s** donation.

Parish Life Ministry *continued*

(Continued from page 4)

First Sunday Breakfast, June 2

As summer temperatures creep in, the menu for the last breakfast gathering of the year is cool and refreshing. Enjoy Greek yogurt, granola, and fruit parfait with a grilled bagel. \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. Please sign up in the foyer, call the office, or email: firstsundaybreakfast@trinity-branford.org.

Please share your thanks and appreciation to the hard-working First Sunday Breakfast Crew, who cook and serve for our monthly gathering nine months of the year. They have earned the summer break!

Trinity Book Group, June 5

We will be meeting at 7:00 PM in the Guild Room. Our book is entitled *Woman Wanted*, by Joanna McClelland Glass, a local author. The plot is described as the story of a woman who comes to work as a housekeeper for a widower and his grown son. Their attachment to her grows to the point where she is asked by the father to marry, to the dismay of the son who also loves her. Everyone is welcome to join our lively conversation.

Worship Ministry *continued*

Did these painted faces angels drop in after the Fair to help **Betsey Bray** and **Nancy Collins** change the altar linens, or might this be Betsey and Nancy's long-term succession plan for the altar guild?

Photo by Rev. Sharon



Buildings & Grounds Ministry

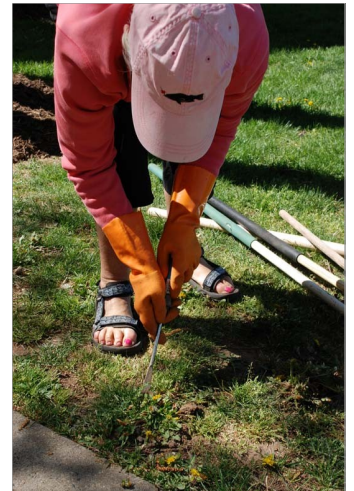


Mike McGuinness, Chair

The crew was few, but the deeds were mighty! Really vital things were done on Work Day. My sincere thanks to those who came and worked hard. We enjoyed our time together; and Trinity looks all the better for it!



Rich Thompson made it to the top of the high window!



Organic gardening—dandelion removal by screw driver!

(Continued from page 1)

A Summer of Caring in Branford

our Branford Cares ideas on the Trinity blog (see pg 7). Who knows, your idea might just inspire someone else!

The Mission of *Branford Cares* is to strengthen community awareness and compassion for those who struggle to afford the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, medical care, transportation, and utilities; to encourage and support the people of Branford in creative acts of generosity; and to promote intra-community dialogue for the benefit of all.

Branford Cares' vision for Branford is a more aware, compassionate, and integrated community in which our citizens embrace a collective responsibility to one another, particularly those who are less fortunate. We imagine a town in which it is deemed a privilege to make sacrifices for the good of others.

Outreach Ministry



Janet Constantino, Chair

Three new members joined us for our May meeting: **Kathy** and **Vincent Costanzo**, and **Patrick Freeman**. Welcome!

Steve Sharma reported on the Walk for Hunger. *Trinity Trekkers* won for best team name. Congrats! Next year, we hope many more will join the Trinity team.

We had a good discussion about the Crow Nation on the reservation in Montana. The food insecurity is a dire problem; and so **Paul Humphrey** requested that we begin a monthly \$400 contribution to the Center Pole Food Pantry for the remainder of the year. It was approved by the members. Rev. Sharon had a conversation with a nearby Episcopal rector, and learned a bit more about the Crow people. There is a Catholic church on the reservation and Rev. Sharon will reach out to them to identify what programs they might already be running. The tribe has a newly elected Chief, Dan Old Coyote, who is working to bring economic development to the reservation.

Trinity's Closet leader, **Kathy Sanchez**, reported on a very successful event held on April 27. Over 40 guests arrived before it was even time to open our doors, so they mingled and enjoyed some of Trinity's fine coffee. By the time the event concluded, they had greeted over 90 guests. Thanks to some newly found support from the First Congregational Church, and an outpouring of donations from Trinity, we were able to ensure everyone received what they needed.



As the photo attests, we had an abundance of items, and a few remained at the end of the day, so we have a jump start for the Fall Closet. Thanks to everyone who donated and/or gave of their time. Much appreciated!

Our next meeting is **June 9**. Please join us as we continue to live out our mission statement.

Finance Ministry



Bill Baskin, Chair

Stewards Of Our Endowment

A group of interested and knowledgeable parishioners has commenced a review of the management and uses of Trinity's investment portfolios and assets. At the call of the Senior Warden, this Super Committee held an organizational meeting in the Guild Room on April 23. The Finance Ministry Chairperson, Bill Baskin, presided.

Full descriptions of the Church's investment portfolios and assets, and of the several named Funds in which these monies reside, were distributed to the attendees.

Following an open discussion and exchange of ideas and views regarding the history of, the past and present investment and use of, and the investment and expenditure limitations on, the Church's various trust and investment funds, it was agreed that the work of the Super Committee should be performed by two subcommittees—Finance and Legal. The goals of the Finance subcommittee would be to (1) develop an investment philosophy suited to each of the several Funds' missions – including consideration of socially responsible investment, (2) describe the appropriate use of each Fund to fulfill its mission, and, (3) prepare expenditure rules and guidance for the Vestry.

The Finance subcommittee will be chaired by **John MacDonald**, and membership includes: **Rev. Sharon Gracen**, **Stephen Hooker**, **Yve Larrieu**, **Martha Monico**, **Cathy Seibyl**, and **Peter Schuller**.

The Legal subcommittee will be chaired by **Peter Schuller**, and its membership includes: **Bill Baskin**, **Andrew Campbell**, and **Jay Pottenger**.

Treasurer **Michael Freeman** will be an observer on both subcommittees. **Michael Dodd**, the Trustee of two funds that are administered by the Branford and North Branford Probate Court, will also observe the subcommittees' work. Mike Dodd may decide to discuss with the Judge of Probate several possible integration relationships between those funds and the in-house Funds that will be reviewed by the Super Committee.

Although the subcommittees will meet separately, co-chairs MacDonald and Schuller agreed to convene and lead a plenary session of the Super Committee. (see page 7)

The Super Committee has tentatively scheduled its next full Committee meeting for **June 25th**, at 7:00 PM, in the Guild Room.

Continued on page 7

Leadership



**Mark McElrath,
Senior Warden**

The CT diocese has initiated a series of meetings around the state, for interested Wardens to meet directly with our bishops. I participated on Tuesday, May 14, at Trinity Newtown. The evening began with dinner at small tables, and I was able to dine with Bishop Laura Ahern. We took turns talking briefly about our parishes, and I shared how Trinity has successfully transitioned to a program-style* leadership structure [*note: the key feature is laity empowerment to manage the programs]. Everyone, including Bishop Laura, wanted to hear more than time allowed.

The bishops offered tools on how to work through conflict when parishioners have differing opinions on any given subject. They stressed the need to be respectful and open to different opinions, and to celebrate the big diverse Episcopal tent we live in.

The evening concluded with everyone sharing what they were looking for in these gatherings. I requested two things. I suggested like-size parish leaders meet and share best practices. And, I shared my concern that the high cost of clergy health insurance prohibits smaller parishes from hiring full-time clergy, and parishes like Trinity from hiring an associate [note: this is not being seriously considered at Trinity, at this point in time.]

I found the evening worthwhile, and plan to attend as many future meetings as my schedule allows.



**Rodney Hayes,
Junior Warden**

The Shepard Fund will award up to ten scholarships, based on the number of worthy applicants. As in the past, the monetary amount of the scholarships will be dependent on the amount of income earned on the Shepard Fund for this year. Along with the application, we are requiring each applicant to submit a 500 words or less essay on what impact Trinity Church has had on my life. The application form is available through the office, and it's on the parishioner site under Minutes & More/Administration. Applications should be submitted to juniorwarden@trinity-branford.org, by **June 15**.

Communication Ministry



Ann Freeman, Chair

Membership Directory is taking shape

Step 1: our month-long verification process has ended; but anybody who wasn't able to participate can either contact the office, or wait until the directory goes live in June and make your own updates and upload your own photos. As the directory is web-based, it will always be accessible. Participation has been very good, which means we'll have a really good looking directory! My thanks to the supporting cast—Vestry, Council, photographers and directory administrators.

Next step: around mid-June you will receive an email advising that the directory is live, your username and password, and basic operating instructions. You will find this an intuitive tool; but should you need help here's whom to contact. Directory Administrators by alpha last name are:

A—D Jane @ trinitychurch@trinitybranford.org
E,F, I—L Nancy Williams (II), directory@trinitybranford.org
M—P Martha Monico, education@trinitybranford.org
G,H, S Sharon, rector47@trinitybranford.org
R, T—Z Sandy Baldwin, worship@trinitybranford.org
All the kids Jen Zehler, godlyplay@trinitybranford.org

Trinity Talk!

Trinity now has a blog -- *Trinity Talk* -- housed on Trinity's intranet/parishioner site, where Trinity conversations can be open and shared among Trinity members, but not the whole world. It's basic, and function can be added. Feedback from the early "test" users group is "awesome!" It truly connects people who may not know or see each other, but who are collaborating on a shared interest. There are no spammed or typo emails; threads of multiple conversations are easy to follow. To add a new group, suggest new widgets, and feedback, email communications@trinitybranford.org. See you on the blog!

Continued from page 6

Stewards of our Endowment *continued*

Super Committee Ethics and Stewardship

The two subcommittees met together on May 20th to discuss some of the key guidelines and thought processes that the Super Committee might follow in fulfilling its mandate. After making a short presentation on endowment ethics and stewardship, the co-chairs guided a conversation among committee members on the specific values, behavioral norms, and stated priorities of Trinity, both as an Episcopal church and a benefactor in the Branford community.

The Super Committee then identified various principles, values, norms, and guidelines that would inform the work of each subcommittee.

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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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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June 2013, Special Dates

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 First Sunday Breakfast; Fire Drill	3 4 PM Columbus House 6:30 Crafts Group	4	5 7 PM Trinity Book Group 7 PM FINANCE	6	7	8
9 Godly Play Fam- ily Cookout	10 6:30 Crafts Group	11 7 PM Council of Min- istries Meeting 12 Pastoral Care	12	13	14	15 Lobster Dinner/Bfd Festival
16 8:00 AM SER- VICE ONLY! Father's Day	17 6:30 Crafts Group	18 7 PM Vestry	19	20	21 Summer Solstice	22
23 Newcomer Gath- ering @ Rectory	24 6:30 Crafts Group	25 7 PM Super Committee meeting	26	27	28 	
30						