

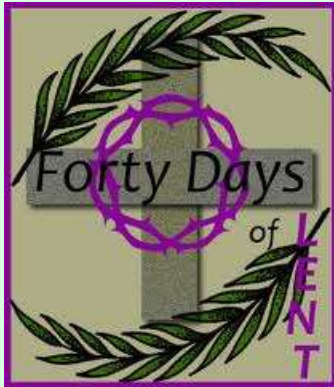


Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Lent through Easter 2019



Inside this issue:

Worship Ministry	3
Spiritual Education Ministry	3
Outreach Ministry	4
Finance Ministry	6
Buildings & Grounds Ministry	6
Lenten Series	7



HEADING INTO RENOVATION WITH THE HELP OF THE FOOTE FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST

It's been a long time coming, and there is still some work to do, but D-Day (Demo Day) is approaching. The plans for the renovation of much of our community space have been in the works for nearly two years, from the first wondering conversations, through the architectural feasibility study, the financial feasibility study, the Capital Campaign, concept and design meetings, appearances before town boards and commissions and the Fire Marshall, more meetings to determine the final scope of the work, and, very soon, building permits and the kickoff of the work itself. Architect Tony Terry is completing the construction drawings; Munger Construction is continuing to organize the subcon-tractors, the schedule, and all other necessary details.

We are grateful to the trustees, especially Regina Collins, who advocated for this project and is a true believer in what we are doing and why we are doing it. That goal received a huge boost when we were informed that the trustees of the Foote Family Charitable Trust had decided that this project and Trinity Church were worthy of a significant investment. At the end of January, we received the official notice of a grant of \$500,000, to be paid over two years. They, and we, believe that Wallace Foote would approve. The trustees were willing to make such a distribution from the Trust because they saw that the members of Trinity Church had responded so



*Left and Right: Mike Kirdzik, Dave DeMaio of Munger Construction;
Middle: Tony Terry, Architect working on construction documents*

We expect the project to get off the ground around May. Of course, the project has changed and grown as the process evolved; and that means the price tag has been a moving target. We are currently expecting the project to cost \$2 million.

generously in the Capital Campaign, and that Trinity continues to fulfill the aims of Wallace Foote's bequest – to work for the health and well-being of the Branford Community. Together, we will make these plans a reality. Speaking of which ...

Please email articles of interest to **communication@trinitybranford.org**.

Photographs are welcome. It is respectfully requested that 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. A color issue is online at **trinitybranford.org/news**.

Messenger Contributors

Features	Rev. Sharon, Ann Freeman
Editor	Ann Freeman
Design	Kathy Shaffery
Copy Editor	Bill Baskin
Photos	Peter Otis (unless stated)
Production	Jane Dougherty

Trinity Leadership

Senior Warden	Sandy Baldwin
Junior Warden	Deb Bradley
Parish Clerk	Bobbe Otis
Treasurer	John MacDonald
Asst. Treasurer	Ann Freeman

Vestry

Janet Daley, Patrick Freeman, Elida Fuentes-Coty, Bill Holohan, Rich Marsan, Beth Mishler, Peter Otis, Stacie Russell, Celia Toche

Council of Ministries

Rev. Sharon, Sandy Baldwin, Marty Hallier, Kim and Paul Humphrey, Martha Monico

Staff

Music Director	Ron Baldwin Administrator:
	Jane Dougherty
Sexton:	Nancy Williams
Bookkeeper	Terri Boustead

OUR FIRST REALITY

On March 3rd, Trinity's new Columbarium was blessed by Rev. Sharon. This culminates more than a year's work by the Building Committee, designing the structure. The construction actually went very quickly, thanks to the detailed preparation by architect Tony Terry, and the Pat Munger Construction Company.



Rev. Sharon blessing the new Columbarium

In a building where there's no such thing as plumb walls, it is outstanding how all 92 niches are situated as plumb as can be! This was the determination and patience of Munger's staff. An engraved brass nameplate will be adhered to the limestone face of each niche. Enough nameplates are being purchased at the same time, so that the patina will age at the same rate.

This lovely addition to the Narthex looks like it has always been there – a peaceful, gentle space. The Saints in the historic stained glass windows look towards the wall with the niches, appearing to be watching over them. Adding two original pews, which had been removed from the Church (to make room for the grand piano), provides an invitation to sit and stay awhile to remember loved ones.

A Columbarium Policy has been completed by Vestry; and we are now ready to accept reservation applications. The cost of a niche is \$2,500, of which \$250 will be kept in a restricted reserve fund mandated by the State of Connecticut. Applications may be obtained by contacting the church office and can be found on the parishioner website. A link will be provided in an upcoming e-blast.

ODE TO A BIRCH TREE

You may have seen in The Sound, and elsewhere, that the Branford Community Forest Commission has identified the graceful White Birch tree that sits outside of our Parish Hall as the first Notable Tree of 2019. It is lovely, and no one disputes that. However, we have a sad



Continued page 6



WORSHIP MINISTRY
Sandra Baldwin, Chair

We are delighted to introduce new members of the Choir. First, a belated welcome to Margaret Sipple who sings in the alto section. She and husband Peter Sipple (The Rev.) found Trinity in 2018, and even though they both sing in more than one Yale choral group, Margaret's love of singing brings her to Trinity's weekly rehearsals and Sunday service.



Jean Mack-Fogg and Thomas Fogg hail from Pittsford, NY, settling into North Branford. Formerly they were at Christ Clarion Church, Pittsford, where Tom was Senior Warden. Among many things they share is a love of singing. Jean sings alto and Tom is a tenor.



We also welcome the newest member of the Altar Guild, Francine Lombardi. Francine routinely attends the 8 o'clock service, and has done so for a few years.



We are blessed indeed.



SPIRITUAL EDUCATION MINISTRY
Martha Monico, Chair

First Informed Holy Communion by Celia Toche

The Middle School youth have been focusing on getting ready for a First Informed Holy Communion, to take place during the 10:00 AM service on May 5, 2019. The main intent is to help them explore what Holy Communion is, understand how it fits into our church experience, and ways in which it is meaningful to them today.



Julia Albert explaining about her Communion banner

We have also reviewed the different parts of the service with a focus towards family engagement. Their discussion has been lively and related to their unique experiences. For the celebration in May, each student will be doing a project that expresses his or her journey, either in a banner, altar cloth, or decorated chalice.

It is not too late to have your young ones join the group. The last day to register is April 7. The group meets every first Sunday of the month, at 9:45 AM. Reach out to Martha Monico for more information.





OUTREACH MINISTRY Kim and Paul Humphrey, Chairs

March 3, 10 & 17 Socks & Undies Sundays

Please bring any size, new socks and undies for men, women, or children, to church. Gently-used socks can be donated as well. These items will be distributed at St. Paul and St. James Loaves & Fishes and Trinity's Closet. There will be a bin by the canned goods in the back of the church, which will be clearly marked.

Trinity's Closet - Help, Hope & Hospitality



L to R: Peg Grabowski, Bobbe Otis, Ellen D'Agostino, Lisa Davis-Rucinski, Maureen McGuinness, Rev. Sharon, Bob Fraser, Peter Schuller

Once again, we will open our doors on Saturday, April 6th, to local individuals and families who are having a hard time making ends meet. They are pre-identified by community service organizations. Each person will be able to choose up to 5 items from a selection of household and personal items – and then they are free to 'shop' (no cost) our tables for gently-used clothing/bedding.

Your help is needed to make our spring event a success... time and/or donations.

1. Volunteer to help setup (late Friday afternoon, April 5th) and/or service our guests (Saturday AM) by contacting Team Leader Ellen D'Agostino at trinitycloset@trinitybranford.org. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated.
2. Donate any of the items below:
 - Household cleaning supplies, such as laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, Fantastic, Windex, etc.
 - Personal items, such as toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant.
 - Paper goods, such as toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels.
 - New pillows (watch for those white sales!).
 - New or gently-used blankets, sheets, towels.
 - New or gently-used spring/summer clothing.
3. Attention all shoppers!!
Trinity's Closet needs someone who is willing to help shop for items for Trinity's Closet. If you have a knack for finding a bargain, please contact Ellen at trinitycloset@trinitybranford.org.

Please Note: Only spring/summer clothes please. We don't have room to store winter clothing. Donations can be left in the undercroft hallway. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen D'Agostino.

Outreach Save the Dates for 2019

- March 3, 10 & 17 Socks & Undies Sundays for St. PJ's Loaves & Fishes and Trinity's Closet
- April 5th Trinity's Closet setup; April 6th Trinity's Closet
- May CT Food Bank Walk Against Hunger
- June Branford Festival Bake Sale & Early Summer Festive Food Drive for Branford Food Pantry
- September Trinity Fair
- November Tree Lighting Cookies & Cocoa
- December Branford Counseling Center Giving Tree
- Every Month:
 - Columbus House- 1st Monday, 4:00 PM
 - St. Paul & St. James Loaves & Fishes - last Saturday

OUTREACH MINISTRY *CONTINUED* Hunger on the Crow Reservation

Trinity's Outreach Ministry continues to contribute funds to The Center Pole Food Bank, at the Crow Nation in Garryowen, Montana. Paul Humphrey remains in touch with Susie Kelly, right-hand assistant to Peggy Wellknown Buffalo, tribal leader.



Susie to the right of Peggy Wellknown Buffalo

Life is difficult at the best of times on the reservation, but winter inflicts layers of harshness – bitter cold, insufficient heat, not enough food. The most recent email from Susie (below) speaks to another harsh challenge – the impact of the Government shutdown. The Humphrey family—Paul, Kim, Alyson & Adam—travelled to Montana and saw first-hand life on the reservation. Any time you would like to know more about these proud people who continue their ancestors' ways, just talk with the Humphreys.

September 13, 2018

Things are going very well with us. We put the roof on our sustainable greenhouse building on Monday (photo below). Finally...it feels so different. Peggy is healthy again. Our food bank and recovery project are doing really good. In the month of June, we transported and distributed 27,000 lbs. of fresh foods in the reservation community. It all came from Billings. We are trying to get a refrigerator truck and a bigger cooler.



Installing solar panels

Friday, January 18, 2019

Hi Paul:

We received the check today and thank you to all. We are extremely grateful.

We have been consumed by the hunger crisis here and trying to meet the need as best as we can. I think I told you the Crow Tribe has been virtually closed down for months, so no one is working. Now all the government related things are closed: no more food stamps or TANF. I think I told you we started recovering foods from the Billings grocery stores, now every day we send our old horse trailer in to pick up what we can and then distribute here. Our old truck dies often so thanks to First Interstate Bank we got a 2008 Chevy 3500 work truck to haul the food for \$19,000. Lately we have been hauling and distributing around 100,000 lbs. a month. It's all fresh great stuff just on the verge of spoiling. A lot of things Native people here have never heard of like jack fruit or jicama. One of our video students has photographed some interesting taste testings.

This week we started serving hot meals, too, made from our recovery foods. It started for the elders because the senior feeding program closed, but now it is for everyone. We served 150 people each day this week. We asked the Catholic Church to use their building in town to be more convenient, but they had every reason to put us off. Now we are also delivering to senior housing and the veterans center.



Indian Boy with food

I will be sending you a more substantive report soon. I have been having a hard time keeping up without my father at my side. My brother has stepped up, but he is less paperwork-oriented. I am also training two of Peggy's children.

Hope all is well with all of you. Susie



FINANCE MINISTRY

The Endowment Fund Committee supports the mission of Trinity Church by managing its investments and use of all its cash, securities, and receivables, under Vestry direction and control. In these regards, the Ministry gave effect to the policies and guidelines of the General Endowment Fund of the Church, which became effective January 1, 2016.



Steve Carlson



Jl Pottenger



Ann Freeman



Andy McKirdy



John MacDonald

Committee members are appointed by the Vestry with terms of three years, except for the Treasurer who remains a standing member with no term limit.

The Rector and Senior Warden participate as ex-officio members. Steve Carlson is the Chair. Members offer legal and financial expertise and are knowledgeable about Trinity's finances and needs. We appreciate their expertise and support.

TOWER BELL FUND

Steve Carlson, Funds Manager, has opened a Vestry-approved Tower Bell Fund. The estimated cost to make structural repair is approximately \$60,000. The restricted Fund has been created through the generosity of parishioners who miss hearing the Sunday bell ring. Anyone may contribute. Checks should carry a notation on the memo line, "Tower Bell Fund".

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Trinity continues to receive new pledges towards the Capital Campaign. It's never too late to make either a one-time donation or a pledge.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY

Marty Hallier, Chair

While much time and focus is on the big renovation, the always-to-be-expected repairs and maintenance continue, keeping Marty busy-busy. The Foote Family Charitable Trust also awarded \$51,000 over two years to cover the code compliance updates Trinity is required to make. Handrails will appear on stairs everywhere, crumbling stone steps replaced, and more. The Sacristy stairs (on the Montowese side of the Church) will be repaired as early in the Spring as weather permits. Above the roofline, several of the 14 finials are in need of repair, the most urgent of which was done in 2018. This work will probably continue for the next couple of years.

ODE TO A BIRCH TREE

Continued from page 2

reality to face about this elegant specimen, and that is that it has already reached its life expectancy, which is only 30-40 years for a white birch in a landscape setting. We have consulted with Shavaun Towers, a nationally respected expert in landscape architecture, about the tree and its viability. These trees have very shallow root systems, which make them vulnerable to wind and soggy ground. They are susceptible to hot weather, and in fact, are no longer found in forests in Southern Connecticut, as temperatures have continued to rise. All of these factors, along with its proximity to the construction site of the raised sidewalk ramp, have convinced us that even should the tree temporarily survive its roots being disturbed by the excavation, it will become a serious hazard to our buildings and, in particular, our very rare Tiffany windows. No one is happy about this, and it is an inevitable loss that we would be experiencing soon even without construction.

We will find a way to celebrate the life of this tree, and the beauty that it has bestowed on all who have seen it, in the coming days. I plan to spend some time standing by its beautiful white trunks, expressing my gratitude and appreciation. Perhaps someone will write an Ode to a White Birch.

All the landscaping along the sidewalk/ramp will be refreshed. The white dogwood by the front corner of the church will most likely be replaced, as it too will have its roots disturbed by digging. There will be an opportunity for us to get our hands dirty when the time comes for planting.





Living Wisely and Well On Planet Earth

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

★ **Trinity Church on the Branford Green** ★

Free and Open to All ★ 203-488-2681

Session 1 – March 13th

Journey of the Universe

Award winning documentary film by Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker

The scientific story of the origin of the universe and of our planet.

Co-producer John Grim will lead the discussion afterwards.

Session 2 – March 20th

Introducing Sustainable Branford

What's going on in our hometown?

Bill Horne, *Sustainable Branford Committee*; Dan McGowan, *Branford Solid Waste Supervisor*

Meg Kilgore, *BYO Branford*

Session 3 – March 27th

Tracking your Eco-Footprint

The next right steps for you.

Margaret Sipple, *Trinity Church*; Michalah Bracken, *Branford Garden Club*

Session 4 – April 3rd

The Sustainable Table

Film and Panel discussion

The implications of the food we eat.

Keith Bishop, *Bishop's Orchard*, Bren Smith, *GreenWave*

Yale Divinity School Sustainability Program

Session 5 – April 10th

An Earth Feast

Share a potluck sustainable meal.

Bring your own plates, cups, and utensils.

What have we learned and how do we use it together?

Trinity Episcopal Church
1109 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

The Rev. Sharon Gracen, Rector
Ronald Baldwin, Music Director

Parish Office 203-488-2681

Email:
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



Trinity Church "Messenger" (USPC 611040) published by Trinity Episcopal Church, 1109 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405. Second

Class Postage Paid at Branford CT.
Send address changes to above address.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Palm Sunday, April 14, HOLY WEEK begins.

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist services.

Tuesday, April 16

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 17

Noon Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 18

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing

8:00 PM All Night Vigil in the Church begins.

Good Friday, April 19

Noon – Ecumenical Cross Walk from St. Mary, eastward to Trinity Church, arriving at Trinity around 2:00 PM. You may join the Walk at any point.

7:00 PM Liturgy – A traditional Good Friday service with Passion Gospel

Easter Saturday, April 20

A day of waiting.

Easter Sunday, April 21

At both the 8:00 and 10:00 Easter Day Eucharists, special Easter anthems and singing of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's oratorio, Messiah.

More details will be in the April Connections Calendar.