



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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May 2012

The Trinity Legacy Fund and The Legacy Society

*The miracle is this—
the more we share,
the more we have.*

Leonard Nimoy

Trinity Church is one of those fortunate churches that have an endowment. The funds that make up our investment portfolio are the product of great generosity of former and some current members. Some of that has come from estate gifts and some as living legacy gifts. They have given gifts to this church for a number of purposes, help for those in need, general purposes, and the upkeep and maintenance of our historic buildings. The total of all our endowment funds is currently around \$1,600,000.

In 1986, under the guidance of The Rev. William Shifflet, The Trinity Fund was created to be an active and ongoing part of our endowment plan. This Fund was created with five components: The Buildings and Grounds Fund, The Ministry Fund, The Mis-

sion and Outreach Fund, The Christian Education Fund, and The Unrestricted Fund.



The balance of The Trinity Fund is currently about \$175,000. When the Fund was created, the legal stipulations allowed for only the interest income to be used. As recent market realities have proved, this can lead to very limited availability.

To address this situation, The Fund's six Trustees (**Julie Anderson, Perdita Norwood, Dave Pearson, Mitch**

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From the Rector



Dear Friends,

This letter comes with a warning label. Please don't get mad at the Rector until you have read the whole thing.

The April issue of *Scientific American* had a troubling article titled "How Wealth Reduces Compassion." Researchers at Berkeley ran multiple studies from observation posts at traffic intersections, to surveys of control groups and even monitoring the heart rates of subjects as they watched videos of diverse topics from how-to home repair to stories of children with cancer. In every instance there was evidence of greater awareness and concern for others among those with lower incomes. Previous studies had already observed that wealthy people have a lesser ability to recognize emotions in others.

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From the Rector

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These psychologists drew some conclusions from their studies, one being that people who are wealthy have a greater sense of freedom and independence and no longer have to rely on others. I believe that there is also a self-isolating component to their findings; people who are wealthy also have more choice about where they will go, the experiences they will have and, therefore, can avoid coming into contact with poverty and hardship. It is easier to block out the affects of poverty if you never see it.

Scientific American is not known for its political commentary, but this article pointed out the ramifications of having a Congress that is made up of millionaires. If our public officials have a compromised ability to act compassionately, that will affect public policy and not in a way that is kind to people in need.

As I read the article, I found myself wanting to defend all of the lovely, generous, affluent people that I know who have maintained their compassion; they are members of Trinity, other churches where I have served, friends, and public examples of philanthropy. However, I also see the evidence of the above studies for myself all too often.

The message of love of neighbor is needed more today than ever. The new BranfordCares.org initiative seeks to mobilize compassion for others in a big way here in our town. For this to succeed, it will need all of us to care, to examine our own hearts, to enter into the world of people who may be very different from us and do all that we can to help provide for those for whom even basic needs are out of reach. This is the time for us to remember the words of Jesus when he said, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me."

Peace, *Sharon+*

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Trinity Legacy Fund *continued*

Rucinski, Carol Schaller and Rev. Sharon) have proposed to the Vestry the creation of a new component to be called The Legacy Fund. While protecting the principal, the interest, previous year's growth and up to

Trinity Legacy Society *continued*

15% of the principal (although not in successive years) could be used for the needs of the parish.

The Trinity Legacy Society is now created to honor and celebrate those members of Trinity who contribute to the Legacy Fund, either through estate planning or living legacy gifts, to the future well-being of our beloved church. On Sunday, May 20th, The Legacy Society will hold receptions after each service to launch this exciting development in the life of Trinity Church. You are invited to learn about how you can be a part of ensuring Trinity's future.

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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Vestry and Council of Ministry members, see website.

Christian Education Ministry

Godly Play - A Treasure Downstairs

Jesus always taught with stories, so it makes great sense that we teach Jesus with stories as well. The Godly Play Foundation web site tells us: "Godly Play is based upon the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. All they lack is the appropriate language to help them identify and express it so it can be explored and strengthened. The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world."



For years, Trinity has had an excellent program under the guidance of **Cathy Seibyl**. She and our dedicated teachers have lovingly tended and expanded our repertoire of stories.

On the Feast of Pentecost, May 27, we will celebrate this ministry by having a blessing of the Godly Play Worship Center, a tour of the many wonders that they hold. We will also bless three new stories to be added to the yearly cycle.

On this day we will also celebrate Cathy's ministry as she steps down from leadership and hands the direction of our Godly Play program over to **Jen Zehler**.

High School Confirmation program, Confirm Not Conform (CnC)



By Martha Monico

On Friday evening, March 30, five of the eight youth from the CnC program, Rev. Sharon, Jen Zehler and Martha Monico attended Temple Beth Tikvah's pre-passover service. We sang songs, followed along in the Torah and prayer book, and prayed in Hebrew and English.

After refreshments, the Rabbi had a private question and answer session for our group. Attending various faith

Spirituality Ministry

traditions and temples is part of the curriculum for the CnC program and these field trips prepare the youth for their commitment at confirmation, which takes place at Trinity Church, Branford, on June 10th by Bishop Laura Ahrens.

Spirituality Ministry



By Bob Barnett, Chair

In an effort to stay in touch with parishioners who have requested prayers for loved ones, the prayer chain members of the Spirituality Ministry will be calling those parishioners over the next month.

We will ask about the person for whom you have requested prayers and offer additional pastoral care (visits, meals, cards etc). In the meantime, if you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please call Jane at the church office or click on the prayer request link on the weekly prayers e-mail.

The in-reach meal ministry members are inviting new members to help prepare, deliver and share meals with those who might benefit from this ministry. The Spirituality Ministry purchases Stop-and-Shop cards to defray food costs, and recently received a donation of cards from a beneficiary of this ministry. That thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer, or to request a meal, please contact the church office or email spiritualityministry-@trinitybranford.org

Parish Life Ministry

Feast of Pentecost, May 27th

On this day when we celebrate the birth of the Church, let us all wear red and welcome **Kellen Blanchette, Carter Starks, Cynthia Sheppard** and **Maggie Marrone** to the Body of Christ.

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Holy Week: Moving and Joyous

Preparations start on the Saturday before Palm Sunday

Preparing the Palms



front to back: Gayle Calabrese, Mary McCarthy, Bert Rowe

Making Trinity sparkle and shine!

Inside the Parish Hall ...



Janet Constantino

...All around the grounds



Those mystery men are Peter Otis (left) and Dave Howell

In The Church (who is that?)



Changing the altar hangings



Back to front: Mary Hyder, Kathy Sanchez, Ann Collier

To name a few. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Holy Week: Moving and Joyous *continued*

Good Friday Children's Service

Friday morning before Easter, about 20 children attended Trinity's Good Friday service of songs, story telling and feasting. The focus of the day was the first Easter Eggs and what the colors and symbols on eggs mean. They ate Matzo, like Jesus did at Passover, and learned four songs or prayers that they can sing to Jesus and their families.



Good Friday "I Was There"

Holy Week runs the gamut of mood and emotion from somber and deeply sad to wonderfully joyous. New to Trinity this year was the Good Friday service called "I Was There." Describing the experience, the adjectives intense, powerful and moving were repeated over and over by the participants and parishioners in attendance. Other comments:

Jim Atkinson: It was a very intense experience.

Nancy Collins: I thought it was the best Good Friday service we have ever had at Trinity. Very impressive. At the end of the service we just sat there and felt like we could have stayed all night. We are bringing more people next year. I told a lot of people about it.

Janet Constantino: Walking out I could not talk to anybody. The service really touched my soul. I cannot imagine how the people who actually said the words feel. It was the most emotional Good Friday service I have ever attended.

Brenda Feniola: It was very moving. I could cry talking about it now. It brought everybody together. It doesn't matter how we were brought to Trinity, we just felt so together that night.

George Fouser: It had gravitas and significance and I thought it was great. It was a thoroughly successful and lovely service.

Cheryl Hyder: I killed Him. I was the nailer. That was my first thought. It was very powerful indeed.

Kris Lockwood: The Good Friday service was like nothing I have ever experienced. We are still thinking and talking about it. I don't think I have ever really thought about what it was like to be there with Jesus. It touched my soul. Thank you for helping me to remember what the Easter season is really about.



Loretta Merlone: It was unbelievable. It made Easter so much more real. I kept thinking about it during the week, particularly the nailer and how that poor man must have suffered.

Martha Monico: It made Easter that much more joyous.

Perdita Norwood: It was beautiful, moving, emotionally draining. It almost felt like we were staggering out of the church.

Otty Norwood: It was the most powerful experience I have ever had in church.

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Parish Life Ministry

Welcome to Trinity!



Hello, my name is **Sara Carreon**, and to the right of me you can usually find **Neil Anglemire**. We both moved to Stony Creek, Branford in August 2011. Neil's work commitments brought him to CT from Pennsylvania. My Neil commitments brought me to CT shortly after. We both did most of our growing up in PA, practically as neighbors.

In Neil's professional life he sells vaccines for a pharmaceutical company. But when he is not hitting the pavement you can find him reading a book, exercising or pretending he is LeBron James on the basketball court. I am also in sales; however, my career has taken me the route of selling technology. In my down time I also enjoy reading, hiking, running, cooking, and hanging out with our two dogs, Lucy and Maddie.

Neil grew up with "The Church Lady" (his mom) and has been an Episcopalian since birth. I grew up a Catholic and started coming to the Episcopal Church with Neil. We found Trinity by chance, but we are so happy that we did. It is one of the most welcoming and warm environments we have ever been in. I had a good feeling about Trinity when I first stumbled upon the web site, and I am so glad that I followed my gut. We are looking forward to meeting more people as time goes on, and continuing our journey with Trinity Church.

Trinity Book Group, May 2nd



Alison Barbaro, Coordinator

The Trinity Book Group is having its next gathering May 2nd at 7:00 pm in the Guild Room. All are welcome. The book selection is *Out of Africa*, Isak Dinesen's memoir of her years in Africa, from 1914 to 1931, on a four-thousand-

acre coffee plantation in the hills near Nairobi. She had come to Kenya from Denmark with her husband, and when they separated she stayed on to manage the farm by herself, visited frequently by her lover, the big-game hunter Denys Finch-Hatton, for whom she would make up stories. For more information about the Trinity Book Group, call the office or email **trinitybookgroup@trinitybranford.org**.

First Sunday Breakfast, May 6th



Crew Chief, Mike Dodd

The menu is blueberry pancakes. It's \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. Please RSVP to the office, or use the signup sheets in the Parish Hall or email Mike Dodd @ **firstsundaybreakfast@trinitybranford.org**

Parishioner's in mourning

Lois Lehr on the loss of her brother, Ron Swanson.

Cindy Lewis on the loss of her father, Bob Miller.

Bob and Pat Kelly-White, on the loss of Bob's mother, Evelyn White.

For **Sam Austin** formerly Trinity's sexton. Sam, his wife Venise and daughter Tina - 1989 directory.

Holy Week (Continued from page 5)

And from the perspective of the CnC youth:

Jillian Denhardt: "It makes you realize how much he wanted to do for us. He loved everyone and through it all still wanted to help his people."

Robert Denhardt: "It was very moving. I don't think I ever got emotional over religion before. It was a really new experience and gave me new meaning. Christ became real."

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OUTREACH MINISTRY



By Kim Humphrey, Chair

In March we supported **Abraham's Tent** which is a program for Columbus House clients held at various churches. We chose St. Paul's and St. James in New Haven. We supplied a complete turkey dinner for 15 men. Additionally, we supplied new socks and underwear for the 15 men.

Trinity's Closet was held on April 28th. Many thanks to all who cleaned out closets or bought new items, as well as showed up on Friday to help with the setup.

Don't forget!! **Walk for Hunger** to benefit CT Food Bank is on May 6th. The walk starts at 1:00. A group can drive together from Trinity at 12:00. **Steve Sharma** is the contact.

The 3rd Annual Lobster Dinner @ the Branford Festival is back!

Eat in the Parish Hall or picnic on the green while you listen to the Saturday night entertainment. Treat your family, or join with friends to enjoy lobster, steamers, corn-on-the-cob, coleslaw and your choice of beverage. Tickets are \$25 each, cash or check. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Church. Preferred pre-paid but walk-ins on the day are welcome. Proceeds will go to Branford Cares. Questions or to purchase tickets, contact **Mitch Rucinski** at 203-481-2230 or the parish office.

Medical Supplies for Haiti

In November **Janet Constantino** and **Rev. Sharon** will fly to Haiti with Global Health Ministry (GHM). The need for aide continues at a dire level. As with last year, the GHM volunteers must take all medicines and supplies with them as there are none available in Haiti. There are brown paper bags with shopping lists attached of all the items that are most needed. Please keep your eyes peeled for any of the items as they go on sale and when your bag is full bring it to church and put it in the font.

Don't have a bag or a list? Visit trinitybranford.org/news. Also, watch for a link in an upcoming Trinity in Touch.

Each traveler may take two 50-pound bags. Your generosity will bring healing and hope to those who so desperately need it.

Holy Week *continued from page 6*

Julius Feniola : It made me think about Easter differently. It brought religion into Easter rather than the Easter bunny.

Ryan Monico: "I liked the contrast between all the characters."

Emma Pottenger: "The large cross gave the church a completely different atmosphere."

Katelin Rowe: "Every moment was intense. I went through a journey rather than just reading it. It felt like you were there."

Easter Faces

There were some particularly bright smiles on Easter morning as two newly trained Torch Bearers made their debut.

Alexis Brown (left) and **Victoria Freeman** managed to carry the torches that are taller than they are with aplomb and reverence. Their smiles punctuated their description of what they were doing, "We are carrying the light of God!" Indeed they did and everyone was charmed. We look forward to their next Sunday in service to the light!



Hallelujah! A New Tradition

This Easter Sunday both services ended with a rousing Hallelujah Chorus. At the 10:00 the choir got a boost from many members of the congregation who drew on their own experience singing that famous piece in high school choir, community choruses or other places. It was a crowd making a joyful noise, every part benefiting from extra voices. It was great fun and many were heard to ask if we would be doing it again next year. The answer is a resounding "Yes!" Some things are just instant traditions.

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

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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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2012, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Memorial Day 2012	1	2 Trinity Book Group, 7pm	3 6:30 Meditation	4 12:00 Branford Cares.org meeting 5:30 Venture Crew Pasta supper,	5 Home Front Work Day
		8	9	10 6:30 Meditation	11 12:00 Branford Cares.org meeting	12
6 First Sunday Breakfast; Hunger Walk	7	15 Vestry meeting	16	17 6:30 Meditation	18 12:00 Branford Cares.org meeting	19
13 Mother's Day	14	22	23	24 6:30 Meditation	25 12:00 Branford Cares.org meeting	26
20 Legacy Society receptions	21	29	30	31 6:30 Meditation		
27 Godly Play Blessing, Seibyl appreciation; Pentecost	28 Memorial Day Church office closed.					