



### A Letter From the Outreach Chair

#### Vision

“Our vision is to be true to the legacy that is Trinity Church, to be good stewards of our traditions, and to increase our work and mission in the world, giving more generously of Trinity’s treasure to bring help and hope to God’s people.”

Last year Reverend Sharon dared us to dream. She asked the Outreach Ministry (then called the Missions Committee) to think big—to imagine what we would do if we had an abundance of resources...what would we do?

We already had our ongoing projects—Angel Tree, Columbus House, Community Dining Room, and a few New Haven organizations—that we have supported for years. More recently we began a relationship with Common Hope and began supporting children in Guatemala.

Each year we held various fundraisers, like our annual International Dinner which allowed our parish to contribute a few hundred dollars to Fuel Assistance in Branford. For a small group, we touched many lives by



stretching our dollars as far as anyone could. We are so grateful to the generous people of Trinity.

In 2011 Outreach is a line item in the budget and our Ministry is responsible for distributing these funds at a local, regional/national, and international level. We have tended our \$6,000 carefully. We were able to add \$2,000 through various fund-raising events.

At this point in time, the needs in our community and the world have grown exponentially. We all have the same ultimate goal: to assist as many less fortunate people as possible. Many members of the Trinity family are coming forward to volunteer

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#### From the Rector



The fall colors may be a bit muted this year, but at Trinity things are looking pretty vibrant. There is so much going on around here that the place is buzzing with new ideas and lots of fun lending a hand.

This time last year, Peter, Max and I were just barely settling in, trying to put names and faces together, and to

learn the history and ins-and-outs of Trinity and Branford. But now, we feel very much a part of life here on the Connecticut shoreline which is a cause for thanksgiving.

Each autumn, I’m always grateful for the church year. It helps us to keep our holy days in order, not rushing through Thanksgiving to get to the retail season before Christmas.

I love the fact that in the US, we have a national day dedicated to gratitude. And

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## From the Rector

(Continued from page 1)

as we dash around making arrangements for our own feast, we are reminded of the many that would not have such a celebration without help from their neighbors. Thanksgiving is a heart holiday which leads us into Advent, that mysterious season of anticipation and preparation. But don't get there too fast. Enjoy the crackling of leaves underfoot, the smell of wood fires, share some recipes, and invite someone to share your table of thanksgiving.

Peace,

*Sharon+*

## Stewardship Ministry

By Vestry



Each year you are asked to respond to God's blessings in your lives by giving back in thanksgiving some of what God has given you. Pledging is a spiritual discipline by which we imitate Christ in giving from our own abundance. Thus the pledge is a personal faith commitment and statement about our col-

lective strength as Christians. We make a promise; the congregation and those we serve beyond ourselves count on that promise.

Pledge income determines how the Vestry plans and implements the annual parish operating budget to support the ministries and Mission of Trinity Church. Without a plan, fundraising becomes a priority all year long, something that changed last year when everyone made a faith commitment.

Every pledge counts! Giving a small pledge that entails a personal risk is a faith commitment that trusts God will provide what is needed. A pledge given out of love and a

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## A letter from the Outreach Chair

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with the Outreach projects. We are very excited about the idea of Trinity making a tithe, contributing 10% of our church's income to help people here in Branford, in New Haven, and in the world.

We are thinking big and hoping to help as many people as possible, and all with your help. Thank you for reaching out to those who need it most.

Regards,

*Kim*

Kim Humphrey, Chair

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month. Please submit hard copy to the office or e-mail [ajfreeman@comcast.net](mailto: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.

### Communication Ministry Contributors

*Features* Rev. Sharon, Ann Freeman, Jim Atkinson

*Editor* Jo-Ann Pearson

*Layout* Ann Freeman

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### Trinity Officers

Mark McElrath, Senior Warden

Kris Lockwood, Junior Warden

Regis Conlon, Treasurer

Roz Jones, Clerk of the Parish

**Vestry and Council of Ministry** members, see website.

## Stewardship Ministry

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grateful heart is indeed generous.

Your Vestry/Stewardship Ministry is committed to proportionate giving and pledging. Proportionate giving is intentional about knowing what you are giving back to God. Those who are new to giving will find a document in the 2012 Annual Appeal that went to every home and explains proportionate giving and assists you to calculate what your giving to Trinity will be.

We cherish our church and church community and understand it's up to us to sustain Trinity and its ministries for future generations. We are living into our role as God's hands in the world and ask you to increase our outreach budget from \$6,000 to \$25,000, so collectively we can respond to the needs in our community and beyond.

Please join us.

### Vestry Stewardship Statement

We believe ...

- † God gives us the gift of life through **Christ**.
- † God's glory is reflected in all that we are and all that we do.
- † ours is a position of both trust and responsibility.

We commit to ...

- † grow in our love for God and one another.
- † live our lives as faithful and grateful guardians of God's resources.
- † regularly attend worship, pray, and strengthen fellowship.
- † use our time, talent and treasure in ministry serving others.
- † support the financial health of Trinity Church through proportionate giving and pledging.

We invite each person to ...

- † share the joy, wonder, and mystery of God's presence.
- † actively participate in our church **Community**.
- † show **Compassion**, love and generosity as our faith response to God's gifts.

## Leadership

### Vestry Nominations



By Cathy Seibyl

The Nominating Committee for Vestry has been formed and is currently seeking the names of individuals interested in becoming Vestry members and Diocesan Convention/Deanery Representatives. Those

nominated will be presented and voted on at our next Parish's Annual Meeting in January 2012.

Attributes we are seeking in Vestry members of Trinity:

- Is thoughtful, strong, forward thinking and able to look at the big picture.
- Will effectively represent the diverse composition and opinions of members of the congregation.
- Is capable of and will make thoughtful proposals that will enhance the spiritual well-being of our church community.
- Will put in the time and effort required to be an effective member of the Vestry.
- Is willing to verbalize and support a conflicting opinion.

The Nominating Committee welcomes all suggestions and recommendations. Please feel free to contact us to get more details.

**Sandy Baldwin**, 203-208-0810;  
sandrab1947@yahoo.com

**Martha Monico**, 203-421-4208;  
edmarthamonico@yahoo.com

**Otty Norwood**, 203-481-0292;  
ottynorwood@sbcglobal.net

**Cathy Seibyl** (Chair) 203-488-7982;  
cathy.seibyl@snet.net

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.

Tagore

## Christian Education Ministry

By Martha Monico



### Pre-school and Elementary School Christian Formation

In our Godly Play Worship Centers, children have an opportunity to be with God, to talk to God, to listen to God, to wonder about

God, and to hear stories of God. The children are surrounded by stories of Christian tradition; sacred stories from the Old and New Testaments, stories that Christ has given to all of us in the parables and stories about the liturgical cycle.

Preschoolers, kindergarteners and 1st graders are in one room, and the second room is dedicated to 2nd 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Church school begins at 9:45, and children are dismissed in time to join their family upstairs for the Eucharist

### Middle School Christian Formation

Trinity's 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet Sunday mornings from 9:45 am to 10:45 am for fun, fellowship, food and religious investigation. Our youth room is where we explore our faith together with our peers and adult teachers who rotate leading and facilitating the class.



The curriculum used to instigate discussions and learn the word of God is The Thoughtful Christian, which incorporates games, music, media, art work, role playing, and service or sharing. Overnight and community activities are coordinated with events sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and the Town of Branford's ecumenical community.

If you would like more information on all our Youth Programs at Trinity Church, please contact the church office.

## Spirituality Ministry

By Jeanne McParland



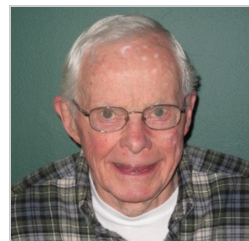
The prayer chain consists of members of our congregation who pray daily for those on our parish prayer list and for those requesting immediate prayer. Members are contacted through a phone tree.

All prayer requests are held in the strictest confidence; no last names or reason for the prayer need to be given. You may put someone on the prayer chain by contacting Jane (203) 488-2681 at Trinity.

We welcome **Sue Rowan** and **Patricia Sperandeo**, the newest members of the prayer chain. Other members are: **Bob Barnett, Ruth Buell, Ann Collier, Winnifred Judge, Mary McCarthy, Jeanne McParland, Bert Rowe** and **Valerie Wallace**.

Prayer Chain members meet with the Spirituality Ministry the second Tuesday of each month at 12 noon in the Guild Room. To join, please contact Jeanne at 203-468-5433.

## Finance Ministry



By Bill Baskin, Chair

### Budget Report

As of September, year-to-date

Receipts	Expenses	Net
\$199,883	\$200,473	-\$590

### The Numbers Are In!

For The Fair that is! Please go to [www.trinitybranford.org](http://www.trinitybranford.org), login to Parishioner site, see Publications. A hard copy will be posted in the Parish Hall. Our thanks to **Richard Coote** for his record-keeping.  
Rodney Hayes, Chair



## Outreach Ministry

### About Outreach

The Outreach Ministry officially lists 13 members, yet outreach involves many members of this church. Have you: put cans of food in the food baskets? Baked a pie to raise money for Guatemala? Donated a bottle of aspirin to go to Haiti? Helped someone to read or speak better English? Given your unwanted seasonal clothing, new pillows and blankets, or laundry detergent to Trinity's Closet? Cooked or served a meal at the Branford Community Dining Room or Columbus House, New Haven? Participated in a Walk For Hunger? It's all outreach.

### We are thankful they raise our consciousness.

There are hungry children, isolated adults, and families in crises, here at home, regionally and in the world. The Outreach Ministry members discuss and decide the strategic focus of outreach each year, organize events and allocate Trinity's outreach budget to local, regional and global programs.

They evaluate what has been accomplished, share new ideas, and set goals for the coming year. They are open to your ideas. Contact **Kim Humphrey**, Chair, or any member of the Ministry. E-mail, phone, catch them at coffee hour. Or just go to a meeting. Check the Trinity calendar at [www.trinitybranford.org/news](http://www.trinitybranford.org/news); read notices of events in the Friday Trinity in Touch e-blast; see opportunities in the Sunday bulletin, or call the office.

### Welcome to new members of Outreach

**Mary Ann Allen, Pam Bold, Janet Constantino, Peggy Esposito, Julius Feniola, Patti & Terry Kron, Dottie Packer, Maureen Shea, Jen Zehler.**

### The Outreach Ministry Needs You!

The Ministry always needs more caring people to help.

- You can be a worker-bee or a team organizer.
- You can serve on year-round programs or here and there as your schedule permits.
- And you don't have to go to ministry meetings unless you want to!



**Lois & Blake Lehr**, Kitchen Ministry at Columbus House. Others behind-the-scenes: **Mark McElrath, Bobbe & Peter Otis, Gayle Calabrese.**

### Program organizing responsibility

Gayle Calabrese	Columbus House
Ann Collier	Hope for Women/Pillowcase Dresses
Lisa Davis-Rucinski	Guatemala/Common Hope; Life Haven; Trinity's Closet
Dru Dodd	Trinity's Closet
Nancy Gillette	Outreach Support
Alyson Humphrey	Past Angel Tree lead, now in college, still supporting Angel Tree. Needs help!
Kim Humphrey	Chair. Angel Tree lead substitute for Alyson. Turkey collection.
Adam Humphrey & Mary McCarthy	Stocking Food Cupboard/Trinity Church
Katherine Rowe	Ministry Treasurer; International Dinner
Steve Sharma	Branford Festival Bake Sale; International Dinner; Walk for Hunger.
Steve Sharma & Mitch Rucinski	Branford Festival Lobster Dinner
Samdaye Sharma	White Envelope Program
Rev. Sharon	Habitat for Humanity
Mike Dodd	Branford Food Pantry Delivery
Maureen Shea	Branford Community Dining Room
Mary Ann Allen	Trinity Advent Celebration
Vacancy	Kiva
Vacancy	Heifer

Is a team leader vacancy for you? Interested in joining a team? Kim is waiting to hear from you! **[kimshelper01@yahoo.com](mailto:kimshelper01@yahoo.com)**.

## Parish Life Ministry

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### Trinity Book Group, November 2nd

The next gathering of the Trinity Book Group is in the Guild Room, at 7:00 pm. This month's book is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. Quoting Goodreads.com, "This is a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life...as only a dog could tell it."

Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. For more details about the group, contact Alison Barbaro at 203-605-6692 or e-mail [alisonbarbaro@comcast.net](mailto:alisonbarbaro@comcast.net).

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### The FSB Crew. They are the best!



Left to right: **Mitch Rucinski, Peter Otis, Dru Dodd, Jen Zehler, Mike Dodd** (front left), **Mike Freeman, Rodney Hayes, Frank Zemina, Russ Urquhart, Peter Hayes** (front right). Missing: **Peter Schuller**. Taking the photo: **Ann Freeman**

### First Sunday Breakfast, November 6th

Join old friends and make new friends while you enjoy a hearty breakfast of pancakes and sausage, juice, tea or coffee. \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. Your RSVP greatly helps the organizers to shop and cook with confidence! Please sign up in the foyer or call the office or e-mail [michael.dodd@snet.net](mailto:michael.dodd@snet.net). Thank you!

### *In Memoriam*

#### **Donald C. Erickson**

May his soul and those of all the  
departed rest in peace.

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### Outreach Ministry continued

#### Preparing for a cold winter

At a meeting of the Branford Clergy Association, First Selectman Unk Daros was in attendance and spoke about the dramatic increase of need in our community. The number of children that are enrolled in the school breakfast and lunch program has doubled. The food agencies in town are struggling to keep up. Heating oil costs are high, and government grants have been cut. There are people sleeping under overpasses.

The clergy were unanimous in their desire to be a part of developing a plan before winter gets here. A task force is being assembled from all of the resource agencies in town. One plan already in place is for a warming station with overnight capacity for those who have no way to stay warm. Unk has committed to providing the place, and we hope that the churches will be able to provide volunteers to help with meals.

The measure of a community is how it cares for those who struggle. Let us pray that Branford is righteous in God's eyes.

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### Help for members of Trinity

In the 1880s, a man named **Eli Goodrich**, a faithful member of Trinity parish, died and left his house to the church. The house was sold and the proceeds have been held in trust at the Branford Probate Court ever since. Needless to say, the sum of money involved has grown over the years and according to Eli's will, the accumulated interest is to be used for those in need in the Trinity Church congregation. That means if someone stumbles into some difficulties

## Outreach Ministry continued

there is help available, whether it is a tank of fuel oil, medical bills, or assistance with housing and mortgage expenses. **Mike Dodd** is the trustee of the Goodrich Fund and Rev. Sharon is the contact person. It is here for you.

### TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF



For the third year, Trinity youth will Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF during Halloween. After collecting coins in special boxes while celebrating Halloween, the boxes are turned back into Trinity and monies sent to UNICEF in New York.

Since 1950, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has been raising money to build wells for clean drinking water, provide life-saving immunizations and train teachers, gather school supplies, and build schools for children to attend. Started by children to help children around the world, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF helps educate children about the importance of giving to those less fortunate.

### It's Turkey Time!

The Branford Food Pantry hopes to have 500 Thanksgiving meals to share with families in our town that might not otherwise have one. Last year the Turkey project headed up by the Congregational Church contributed 80 of the frozen fowl. This year, the Branford Clergy Association is joining forces, and we hope to push that number up to at least 150. Each congregation is asked to invite people to underwrite a turkey or fixings. Vouchers will be on sale after each November service. Please pay with cash or check. How many do you think we can provide?



If you miss the vouchers, please drop off frozen turkey's and the fixin's to the back of the church on Sunday, **November 20th**. They will be delivered to the Community Dining Room/Food Pantry. If you have any questions, email **Kim Humphrey** at [kimshelper01@yahoo.com](mailto:kimshelper01@yahoo.com).

### A Trinity Twist on a Branford Tradition

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, a parade makes its way to the Green and the Branford Christmas Tree is lighted. It's time for Trinity to get in the game. Imagine the sight of Trinity ablaze with light, the sound of Advent and Christmas music wafting out through the open red doors. Imagine the Parish Hall, filled with the smell of hot cider and an Alternative Gift Fair—a chance for people to do their shopping and do good at the same time.

We all have enough stuff, so why not give a goat from Heifer Project in Great Aunt Matilda's name or a load of Habitat for Humanity shingles for Uncle Ebenezer? Or buy a star from the Angel Tree and give Christmas to a child whose parent is in prison and can't be home for the holidays. And so much more! What do you say we invite the whole town! **Maryann Allen** is the crew chief. Stay tuned for details.

### Community Dining Room needs you!

Pat Kral, the Executive Director of the Branford CDR, told Rev. Sharon that they are desperately short of volunteers for most shifts throughout the week. Trinity has always been a part of the CDR with a team cooking and serving breakfast a few times a year. One of our Saturdays is coming up on **November 12<sup>th</sup>** and **Maureen Shea** is captain of the team. If you can help, please call the office (203-488-2681) and volunteer.

### Trinity's Closet, November 5th

The Outreach Ministry is offering much needed household items and warm winter clothing to people in need in the Branford community. Eligible participants are identified by social service agencies in Branford and invited to attend. Trinity's Closet is open between 8:30 am to 12:30 pm on the 5th. Items needed include: gently used warm winter clothing including coats and jackets; cleaning supplies (general, laundry, kitchen and bathroom); personal hygiene items, male and female, (shampoo, toothpaste, floss, hairspray, Qtips); household items (bed linens, towels, pillows); and kitchen items (small items).

Parishioners should leave donations in the Undercroft. Helpers are needed on the evening of the 4th to set up in the Parish Hall, as well as on the 5th to assist participants. Please contact **dru.dodd@snet.net** if you are able to help.

Trinity Episcopal Church  
1109 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

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  
An AT&T Channel 99  
7:00 PM Sundays

#### **Wednesday**

12:10 PM Eucharist & Healing  
Service, Guild Room

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Episcopal Church, 1109 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405.

Second Class Postage Paid at Branford CT.

Send address changes to above address.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## November 2011, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Book Group 7pm	3	4 Trinity Closet set up-4pm	5 Trinity 's Closet
6 1st Sunday breakfast; Outreach Mtg 11:30	7 Columbus House	8	9	10	11	12 Community dining room
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Turkeys & Fixin's to Church	21	22	23	24 	25	26 Trinity Advent Cele- bration & Tree Lighting
27 Angel Tree Available	28	29	30	31		