



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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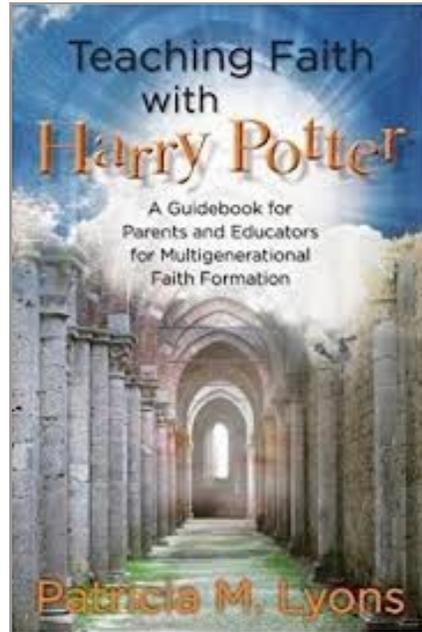
November through Christmas 2017

Teaching Faith with Harry Potter

“It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.”

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

The saga of Harry Potter and his friends joined in a desperate battle against evil is a story of life, death and resurrection, and the power of love. It was inspired by author J.K. Rowling’s own faith story, marvelously set in Hogwarts, the magical school for young wizards and witches. The popularity



and impact of this seven-book series is a worldwide phenomenon. People who have never read the Bible have read its story of faith, told in the guise of Harry, Professor Dumbledore and the other wondrous characters.

A gathering of PotterHeads at the Rectory recently came up with a plan to engage Harry Potter fans in our community with the important themes and spiritual hopes of our mutual stories. It will be fun, magical, and spiritually nourishing. Watch for news, and plan to be enchanted!

Children & Youth Choir Forming
Beginning Sunday, November 12, at 11:15 AM, in the Church. For children and youth, a very special treat is in the making, thanks



to the Henry family—Chris, Amanda & Nellie. Daughter Nellie wants to sing. Dad Chris is a Trinity choir section leader. What they need is more singers to form a seasonal choir (we hear rumors there are six so far). Interested children, youth, and parents should simply show up. Rehearsal will be in the Church, and parents can enjoy coffee hour in the Parish Hall. We can’t wait to hear this choir!

Come and Be Fed, Sunday at 9:00 AM

In October, John and Cathy Seibyl provided an update on the work of the Center for Children’s Spirituality, one component of TIANs (Trinity Institute of Allied Neuroscience & Spirituality). If you missed their presentation, it’s available online at trinity-branford.org/news.

November 19, catch up with the newest initiatives from Branford Cares.

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Worship Ministry

Please e-mail 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.

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Altar Guild News



The end of an era has come for Trinity's Altar Guild, an ancient and noble form of service to the church. Nancy Collins and Betsey Bray (the Robinson sisters!) have decided to step down, after untold years of faithful ministry. We have been blessed by their attention to the big picture, and the details of every Sunday morning.



The work of this important ministry will continue on the strong foundation that Betsey and Nancy built. Our gratitude cannot match the dedication that they have shown; but we say so sincerely,

thank you.

Holy Baptism

On November 5th, at the 10 o'clock service, we welcome into holy baptism Peter Benjamin Greco. Congratulations to first-time proud parents, Katie & Peter Greco.

We welcome into ministry,



Alexis Brown
Chalice Bearer



Ruby DeGoursey
Acolyte



Please join us in welcoming Jim Doing, Bass Section Leader, into the Trinity Choir. Jim is a graduate of BHS (2010), as well as UCONN (2015). Jim sang with the Branford Chorale, as well as the BHS Concert Choir and Music Makers.

Outreach Ministry

Trinity Kids in Action Takes Off!

Julia Albert was inspired by a charming lemonade stand that her dad, Mike Albert, had made for her. She wanted to raise money for the Cosgrove Animal Shelter. Other chil-



dren were invited to join in, and join they did. Trinity Kids in Action (TKiA) was born with an ongoing TKiA lemonade stand during the Jazz on the Green concerts. They raised nearly \$600.

Then the hurricane season began, and TKiA helped Trinity to raise relief funds. Their \$170 was added to the \$1000 from our Outreach budget, and sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. Our little children are leading us!

In October, TKiA gathered for a pizza party to celebrate their success and plan for the future. Gathered around the conference table in the Guild Room, they decided to continue their work with the Animal Shelter by becoming Read-



ing Buddies for the cats and dogs in the shelter, to help with their socialization in preparation for adoption. The Kids will

receive training at the Shelter before they begin sharing Dr. Seuss and other literary gems with the animals.

TKiA is for Trinity's kids and their friends, and anyone who wishes to help this beautiful group of young leaders change the world, one project at a time.



Blake Lehr is our labyrinth guide

For the Fair, Rev. Sharon came up with the best labyrinth-making method yet—a hard task made simple! Over 900 cans of food outlined a perfect labyrinth in a confined space, placed at the center of the Trinity Fair. The kid-friendly labyrinth sent an adult message, and many adults gave to the hurricane relief collection box at the center. Very cool!

Update From The Center Pole



Trinity continues to support The Center Pole, Montana, with quarterly donations to help them fill their food bank. From time to time, their leadership sends an update about the ongoing struggles on the reservation. What follows is a recent email to Paul Humphrey (co-Chair Outreach) from Susan Kelly and Peggy Well Known Buffalo.

*Left: growing their own corn
(Continued on page 4)*

Outreach Ministry *continued*

“....So the food sovereignty is going great. We have expanded the food bank to include food recovery from Billings so we go twice a week and pick up fresh foods from grocery stores etc. healthy stuff finally...we are just about to order a walk in refrigerator we got funding for from Walmart so we can keep the food longer. We will have it in several months. Our growing was good but not great this summer. We got a batch of straw infected with insecticide without knowing and it stunted a bunch of our leafed plants. But our yield was just about the same, mostly pumpkins, squash, tomatos and corn. We are building an experimental thermal mass building. The inside will be a 32 by 32 ft three story greenhouse. We are feeding now 480 families a month as well as serving 400 meals to community members. These fresh foods are great. Right now the tribe is closed down and it is close to 85% unemployment, so we are extremely busy. The tribe lost its casino, rodeo grounds and multipurpose buildings which it had mortgaged. If they start cutting tanf people will starve. Not a pretty picture. Again sorry for the delay and for supporting us!!!!!!”

A record number of clients attended the October Closet. As always, it takes a village. Parishioner seasonal donations were excellent. Scouts helped to move all the supplies and donations upstairs. Outreach leaders used outreach dollars to shop for household supplies, pillows, etc., and more were donated by parishioners. Willing hands helped to organize and prepare the room, and extend a warm welcome to clients. Together, we made life better for too many of our neighbors. Thank you.



Front to back: Peg Grabowski, Bobbe Otis, Ellen D'Agostino, Lisa Davis Rucinski, Maureen McGuinness, Sharon, Bob Fraser & Peter Schuller.

Parish Life Ministry

The 110th Fair was joyful and well attended! Sharing the Green with the Friends of the Library Book Sale received two thumbs up from members of the Friends, general community, and



The Fall Fairy brightened our Fair (a/k/a Judie C.)

Trinity. Our colorful, compact space, worked well, aided by a seasonal “pumpkin alley” connecting the library and Trinity spaces to each other (thank you Judie Cavanaugh & friend Tracie). The toe-tapping music and delicious smells of cooking food were irresistible, as were our offerings—to which the financial results attest. Community supported outreach for hurricane relief, and our posters told about the difference Trinity makes at home and in the world. Our net proceeds exceeded \$9,200, slightly reduced by cold and wet weather that moved in during the afternoon. Team leaders worked hard and oh so well! All volunteers are owed many many thank yous. It was a good day!



Left to right: Lois Lehr mentors newcomers Gail Eckblade, Billye White and Milvia Martinez, on needlework sales.

Buildings & Grounds Ministry

Stewardship Ministry



Maryann Doyle, the Consultant retained to do a Financial Feasibility Study for the proposed Lower Level Renovation project, conducted 35 member inter-

views—a cross representation of the membership—over 3 days. The purpose of the study is to determine whether there is sufficient member support for moving ahead with a capital campaign for the renovation project, as well as member willingness to help with, and/or contribute to, a capital campaign, possibly slated for February/March 2018. Maryann will present a summary of member feedback at the November vestry meeting, and then after a combined 9:00 service on December 10th, so that all may hear the report before the Vestry vote. Do plan to attend that day to hear what Maryann has to tell us.

Foote Trust 2017 Projects

Work on the 2017 capital improvements project list is almost complete. Funded entirely by an annual grant awarded by the Foote Family Charitable Trust, this year our Parish House has primarily benefitted from much needed repair and updating, in and out. Exterior painting, the last item to complete, is underway at this moment. If you haven't yet seen how inviting and larger feeling the Guild Room is, it's worth a visit to see it. Removal of the entryway asbestos floor tile is the

last environmental abatement issue beyond the Undercroft. Finally, the fuzziness of the lettering on the ventilator portion on the Angel Tiffany window, is resolved.



The deadline for a grant application for 2018 is mid-November. Vestry members have a copy of the capital improvements list; please funnel any concerns or suggestions of what might be on the 2018 list to any Vestry member, Sharon or Ann. We are very grateful to be a recipient of the Foote funds.

Giving is a message we hear a lot about at this time of year; but it's not just our treasure that we're asked to share, it's also our time and talent. This note could say "Trinity needs you", but it's actually you who needs Trinity more. Your talent and time to help support the work of the church isn't "work", but rather a labor of love, that returns much more than you give. Wherever training or mentoring is needed, it is given. Openings exist in the following:

Ministry	Contact
Altar Guild	Sandy Baldwin
Coffee Hour Hostess - some Sundays	Judie Cavanaugh
Lay Eucharistic Visitor-visiting homebound parishioners and providing communion	Cathy Seibyl
Afternoon office volunteers (1-4 pm) to answer the phone, and prepare mailings. Assist communication ministry—writing, photos, website, social media, etc.	Rev. Sharon or Ann Freeman
"Countess" - process giving envelopes. Some Sundays. Computer experience helpful.	Ann Freeman or Sandy Baldwin
Order & pickup the Stop & Shop gift cards	Ann Freeman or Cathy Seibyl
Point person for trades/services contacting (exterminator, minor repairs, HVAC, electrician, etc). As needed.	Ann Freeman

Assume nothing! Learn more! Much of this requires low-level time and skills, emphasis is on the open heart.

Everyone is welcomed into ministry whenever the time is right. You don't have to be invited, and we're not shy about suggesting how you might use your gifts. Feel free to talk with Sharon, Wardens, Chairs, or Vestry members.

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Branford, CT 06405**

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

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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

Good News!

Episcopal Church of CT (ECCT) has issued a letter in good standing to "...those parishes that are fulfilling the administrative, financial, and canonical expectations that are fundamental to our common life...Their faithfulness, devotion, and in many cases sacrifices, warrant the recognition and thanks of our Annual Convention." Trinity-Branford will be recognized.

Our smallest and newest outreachers! Bella and brother Jose, with Nellie.



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