



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

October 15 thru November, 2014

In each situation
ask yourself,

“What’s the loving
thing to say or
do now?”



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Icon photo: The Holy Trinity, Andree Rublev	

A MUSICAL INVITATION TO PEACE

Sunday, November 2, at 5:00 PM, Trinity Church will be offering a Taizé service in the Parish Hall. This approximate hour-long service will be composed of scripture readings, prayers, periods of silence, and meditative singing, conducted in a candlelit setting, complete with an icon and incense. It will be led by Fred Biamonte and Ron Baldwin.

The repetitive singing of short melodies is something Taizé is well-known for. This service is not from our Book of Common Prayer, nor is it designed to replace our Sunday

Eucharist. It is, however, offered in many Episcopal churches on a regular basis.



Taizé is a small village in eastern France. Since 1940 it has been the home of an ecumenical monastic community. The brothers are committed to working among the poor and working toward the reconciliation of Christians of all denominations. For the first twenty years of its existence, the community lived in relative isolation. Then

gradually, young people in their 20s began

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FROM THE RECTOR



It will be a first for Trinity, on Saturday, October 25th. Andrew Cosenza and Jeffery Litke will get married. It will be a first for me as well, to officiate and celebrate the Eucharist at the wedding of two men.

Drew and Jeff have been members here for about a year and a half. Like many people, they were drawn in by the friendly and welcoming nature of this parish. They have helped with two Fairs, been received into the Episcopal Church, become lectors, and are now making their way through their pre-marital counseling.

When I returned to the US in 2004, after having lived in France for a couple of years, I found myself in Southern California, at a small church near Laguna Beach. The first week that I preached there, I had to read a pastoral letter from the Bishop about the parishes that had decided to leave the Episcopal Church because a gay man had been chosen as Bishop of New Hampshire and people who were not heterosexual were being ordained regularly. That was 10 years ago. Marriage was barely on the wish-list for our brothers and sisters in the LGBT

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Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* will be communicated to leadership by email. Others may e-mail to **communication@trinitybranford.org** at any time. 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

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A color issue is on **trinitybranford.org/news**

Trinity Leadership

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

Vestry

Dru Dodd, Terry Kron, Mary MacDonald,
Ed Monico, Kathy Sanchez, John Seibyl

Council of Ministries

Sandy Baldwin, Bill Baskin, Joe Brummer, Steve Carlson, Ann Freeman, Peter Hayes, Mike McGuinness, Martha Monico, Cathy Seibyl

Staff

Parish Administrator	Jane Dougherty
Sexton	Nancy Williams

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coming to Taizé in ever-increasing numbers. They came to share their concerns, and to participate in the services with singing in native modern languages and in the "international" liturgical languages of Latin and Greek.

Meditative singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, chanted repeatedly, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words, they express the basic reality of faith. As the words are sung reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer, and to remain together in attentive waiting on God (without having to fix the length of time too exactly). To open the gates of trust in God, nothing can replace the beauty of human voices united in song. This beauty can give us a glimpse of "heaven's joy on earth," as Eastern Christians put it. An inner life begins to blossom within us.



These songs can also sustain personal prayer. Through them, little by little, our being finds an inner unity in God. They can continue in the silence of our hearts when we are at work, speaking with others, or resting. In this way, prayer and daily life are united. They allow us to keep on praying, even when we are unaware of it, in the silence of our hearts.

All are welcome to share in this enrichment of our spiritual journeys.



FROM THE RECTOR *CONTINUED*

community. But now, marriage equality—the right of people to marry whom they choose—is spreading rapidly through these barely united states.

Before my conversations with Jeff and Drew, I wondered if my usual process for pre-marital counseling would be relevant. But as we watched the Brené Brown TED talks on vulnerability, and discussed the critical need for authentic, honest, whole-hearted living and sharing, it was clear to me that they are no different from every other couple with whom I have had those conversations. They will have joys and struggles, dreams and stumbles. They will continue to be a part of this community, inviting us to remember to see beyond the human vessel to the spiritual beings who, by the way, have invited all of you to their wedding. Isn't that lovely?

Peace,

Sharon +

WORSHIP MINISTRY

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



Sandy Baldwin
Chair

The Worship Ministry meeting scheduled for Saturday, **November 22, at 10:00 AM** in the Guild Room is for both active members of the worship ministry, and those considering joining as either an Altar Guild member, an Acolyte, a Chalice Bearer, a member of the Choir, a lector, an usher, or a member of the video team. We will discuss questions such as: How do we maintain or increase our high standard? Is what Trinity stands for manifested through worship? What are our strengths? What might need tweaking?

Also, some members have asked we discuss the advisability of having **one 9:00 AM** Sunday service to mark the beginning of summer. Please join us for this important dialogue.

Music Ministry Thank You!



Still singing — just in the pew

Bill Baskin, a valued member of Trinity choir, has retired to the pew. The Choir celebrated Bill's years of joyous singing in fine fashion! Now Bill is enjoying accompanying his wife Judy to worship.

Welcome!



The newest member of the Trinity Church Choir is Chris Henry, the bass section leader. Chris grew up in Cheshire, attending the First Congregational Church there, and sang with their Senior Choir through high school and college. He attended Wesleyan University and

graduated with a degree in classics.

Chris has sung with various choirs and groups, including the Wesleyan Spirits, the men's a cappella group at Wesleyan, and the Branford chorale. He has sung in a variety of local musical theatre productions.

Chris resides in Branford with his wife, Amanda, and his three-year-old daughter, Nellie. For the past five years he has worked for TD Bank, and is currently a supervisor at the TD Bank in Hamden.



Steve Carlson
Chair

Stewardship at Trinity is a commitment of many gifts: time, talents, relationships, property, and the Gospel in partnership with God. This fall, we have considered "Where is God Calling Us Now?", as articulated by Rev. Sharon, and considered in several cottage meetings. Many thanks to those who attended the meetings, and shared their ideas! And, many thanks to all our good stewards at Trinity who share their gifts throughout the year.

We are now at the point where we need to secure operating funds for Trinity for next year. Our pledges support daily operations, parish ministries, outreach programs (including support for the activities of the CT Diocese of the Episcopal Church), education, and music programs. Vestry and Sharon are using the information gathered at the cottage meetings to identify priorities and strengthen certain of those programs in 2015.

Each member household will soon receive a letter asking for a pledge to Trinity for next year. The letter will describe the programs proposed by Vestry and Sharon for the new year. We hope that people who are involved with Trinity, but who have not taken the next step to pledging, will consider doing so. And, we hope that people who already pledge will consider increasing their pledges. Please review the letter and prayerfully consider your financial gift for next year. Each pledge matters.

Trinity has made wonderful strides in recent years. Let us work together -- all of us -- to continue our service to God through our commitment to Trinity Church.

What does Trinity mean to you?

"Trinity Church is where I re-connected with God. Coming to Trinity made me want to go to church every week—it was that being spiritually fed to go out into the world that was working. Participation in ministry filled my heart and gave me far more than I put in. I was moving again on my spiritual journey."

Ann Freeman

Parish Life Ministry



Peter Hayes
Chair

Trinity Transitions

November 1st we welcome into the body of Christ through baptism, Claire Anglemire, daughter of Sara and Neil Anglemire.

We extend our congratulations to Drew Cosenza and Jeff Litke on their marriage. We wish you both long, healthy, and happy lives together.



Our prayers and condolences go to Deb Knowlton Bradley, on the loss of her husband Paul Bradley, and to the family members of Claire Voos. Rest in peace.

We remember their souls and all those departed in the last year since All Saints Day, 2013. A remembrance poster, made by Pastoral Care, will be in the church beginning on All Saints Day (November 1), to remind us not only of those we loved and lost from our church community, but also their loved ones among us. They continue through the grieving process, made easier by love and support every time someone reaches out.

Amen.

Drum Roll Please!

The record-breaking proceeds from the 107th Fair are
\$19,265.15. Great job!

Twenty-two people crowded into the Guild Room for the Fair de-brief. In short: new initiatives this year worked well and will continue; constructive improvements were detailed for next year; and Dottie made suggestions for shared leadership that she feels would work well. It's on to the 108th Fair!

First Sunday Breakfast, November 2

The menu this month is scrambled eggs and bacon, with a garnish of seasonal fresh fruit. Also on the menu: juice, tea/coffee. \$3.50 adults, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. Enjoy the time where 8 o'clockers meet 10 o'clockers! *Please* sign up in the foyer, call the office, or email firstsundaybreakfast@trinitybranford.org. Thank you!

Trinity Book Group, Tuesday, November 4

The Master & Margarita, by Mikhail Bulgarov, and hosted by Janet Hager.

Written between 1928 and 1940, but unpublished in book form until 1967, this classic novel is woven around a visit by the Devil to the fervently atheistic Soviet Union. Many critics consider it one of the best novels of the 20th century, as well as the foremost of Soviet satires. In part, it is angled against a suffocating, bureaucratic social order.

Wood Worker Needed

We are in need of a wood worker to fabricate a 30" table top for a base that we have. This table will be used in the Parish Hall during coffee hour, as a welcome station for visitors. Please contact Mark McElrath. Thank you!



Photo, Rick Cain

Despite the heavy rain on the Take A Vet Fishing event, smiles and warmth radiated from volunteers who cooked and served food for the thirty disabled veterans to enjoy. This was the first year Trinity joined with First Congregational Church and Church of Christ Stony Creek Congregational, to support this event.

Did you know?

It costs about \$900.00 per day to keep Trinity going.

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY



Cathy Seibyl
Chair

Revitalized Cards Ministry: Sharing Care and Prayer with Cards and Hearts **By Peter Otis**

At a recent Pastoral Care meeting, Cathy Seibyl and I began talking about how we could revitalize Trinity's cards ministry. The Holy Spirit is helping us develop two related initiatives.



Cathy and I have been developing lovely note cards with handwritten messages and prayers that can be sent to Trinity family members when there is either a need or reason to celebrate. Knowing that there is something special about receiving a handwritten card these days, we have been crafting the appearance and the content so that it expresses our love and concern for the recipients. Cathy is the "fiber artist", and I the photographer. Current cards that have been assembled might include one of my Trinity Church stained glass window photos, or perhaps one of the Eucharistic elements being consecrated. Other adornments could be a piece of hand woven cloth or a small quilted square. We hope that these cards—that include a prayer and art from our Trinity family—will bring healing and peace to recipients.



Cathy has also begun passing on lovely wooden hearts to persons. In her words, "God's presence is illusive to us, and I feel during difficult times that a little wooden heart is a visible and concrete symbol of God's love for us, and also a symbol of how

a parishioner is loved and held in prayer in this great family of families we call Trinity Church."

We seek additional persons to help us with this ministry—card makers, message writers, and card senders, for example. Please contact either Cathy or me at pastoralcare@trinity-branford.org.



SPIRITUAL EDUCATION MINISTRY



Martha Monico
Chair

Adult Forums, Sunday 9:00 AM

October 19th Fred Biamonte will present *The Freedom to Worship: The World of Norman Rockwell*. (A flyer with details is on the bulletin board and the website.)

November 16th Joe Brummer and Jen Zehler will present pictures and stories from their India experience this summer, especially at the International School for Jain Studies.

These talks are well worth your time to attend. See you there.

Sunday School Classrooms Finished!

Only Maureen McGuinness knows the number of hours Mike McGuinness has worked to oversee the floor tile removal in the Sunday School area, do repairs, and prepare the walls and floors for fresh paint. Thankfully, several energetic crews of angels appeared on different days to help with the painting; just a few are shown below. But wait! Isn't that paint supposed to go on the wall?



There is symbolism to the soft paint color chosen for each room. The younger children's classroom is yellow, taken from the sun beginning a new day; they are just beginning their journey in Godly Play. The older children's classroom is blue, because they are learning to navigate into the deeper water (like the Sea of Galilee), and go deeper into the stories. The middle school classroom is green, as they grow into young adulthood.

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OUTREACH MINISTRY



Joe Brummer
Chair

Sin Sisters Team Up With Trinity, October 31

Every year on Town Tree Lighting Night, the *Sin Sisters* band entertains the crowd who are waiting for Santa to light the Christmas lights on the Town tree. *Sin Sisters* park their huge trailer bed, proudly displaying their name in lights, right in front of the Trinity Church steps. You have to laugh! Now the good people of *Sin Sisters* have organized a Halloween Party & Coat Drive, to be held at Owenego Inn, on **October 31st, 8:30 PM to midnight**. \$15 tickets buy you appetizers, Halloween treats, prizes for best costume, and of course, their live entertainment. The new or gently used donated coats will quickly pass to Trinity's Closet, just in time for its clients the following morning. Tickets at sinsistershalloeen.brown-papertickets.com, call 1-800-838-3006. If you have cash, go to Owenego between 9:00 AM–4:00 PM daily, or the Church office, between 9:00 AM–1:00 PM.



Trinity's Closet, Saturday, November 1



Kathy Sanchez
Coordinator

Our semi-annual Trinity's Closet is scheduled for Saturday morning, November 1, with set up on the afternoon of Friday, October 31.

We typically see 75-90 guests who have been pre-identified by community service organizations. After being greeted with a cup of Trinity hot coffee, they select items from an assortment of household cleaning products, personal hygiene items, and new bed pillows, as well as from donated, gently-used winter clothing or bedding.

We need your help in two ways. 1) Your time: volunteers are needed around **3:00 PM on Friday, October 31**, to help set up. Many hands will ensure we're all home in time for the trick-or-treaters. Help is also needed on Saturday morning, to assist our guests in making their selections.

2) Your treasures: while cleaning out your closets, please consider donating any warm coats, sweaters, shirts, pants, and boots that you won't be using. Your spare blankets, bed sheets and bath towels are also always welcome. If you would like to make a product donation, laundry soap, bath/kitchen cleaning products, skin lotion and new socks are all very helpful. All items can be left in the undercroft.

Thanks for your support!

Thanksgiving Turkeys Requested

The Branford Food Pantry has reached out to us as Thanksgiving approaches. They wanted to know if they could count on us again this year for Thanksgiving turkey dinners. Our annual drive, which exceeded 100 meals last year, has become a vital part of their work. Here's how we do it— it's as easy as pumpkin pie! On Sunday, **November 2**, there will be order forms in the Sunday bulletin. \$25 provides a complete turkey dinner for a family of four. \$7.50 provides a supplemental package of coffee, juice and butter. We work with Big Y for good prices and lots of help. The Town sends a truck to the store, and delivers the whole shebang to the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry delivers to 260 families. This means that your love and generosity will be served up all over town. Of course, they can count on us!



Kayimet School Update



At long last, construction has begun on the school in Kayimet, Haiti. Local residents are being paid for their work, and hope is abounding. Last month we were able to wire \$22,000 for the work to begin. That amount will go a long way toward the \$79,000 total

for the school. Photos will be posted on the Trinity and School for Kayimet Facebook pages. God is good.

Community Breakfast, Saturday, November 8

Help serve breakfast to our neighbors at the Community Dining Room. Preparation and cooking starts at 8:00 AM. Contact Maureen Shea, team leader, to volunteer your help, at diningroom@trinitybranford.org, or check the membership directory for her phone number.



SPIRITUAL EDUCATION MINISTRY *CONTINUED*

(Continued from page 5)



Aaron Radulski applying primer to his original artwork on the middle school room walls.

Below, the new soft look for all the school rooms.



It is also impossible to appreciate the number of hours the teachers—especially Jen Zehler—and other members put into restoring the rooms — moving furniture, hanging, arranging, laying carpet tiles, and more. The result is nothing less than a most-inviting Worship Center for children.

This project was a large undertaking, taxing people and space needs for an extended period; but every scrape, and brush, and hour of work, was filled with love. Thank you, one and all!

Youth News!

High school youth exploring their faith and what they believe, is the basis for a program called Confirm Not Conform. Rev. Sharon, Rev. Lucy of Zion Episcopal-North Branford, Jen Zehler, and Martha Monico, facilitate bi-monthly classes, a few field trips, and service projects, spread out over 9 months. The group started in September, and meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, between 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM. Trinity has

combined with Zion Episcopal's youth and Rev. Lucy, so we will rotate between our two facilities for meeting space. Nine youth enrolled—7 from Trinity and 2 from Zion.

Each youth will be assigned an adult mentor from his or her parish. Youth mentors will attend about 4 classes and have an occasional one-on-one meeting to chat or spend time talking. You are invited to volunteer to support Trinity's youth. Here's what previous mentors say about their experience:

Ann Collier, *"I found being a mentor was a very uplifting experience....Hopefully, making a life-long friend."*

John Seibyl, *"It was very worthwhile. I'm not sure who was the mentor and who the mentee."*

To volunteer please contact Jen Zehler, Martha Monico, or Rev. Sharon.

Shoreline East Episcopal Youth Kicks Off!

Looking at the photo below, it seems the first Shoreline Episcopal Youth overnight at Bushy Hill Camp was no fun whatsoever! Hamming it up back left to right are: Daniel Rowe, Jen Zehler-chaperone, Olivia Campbell, and Lexi Brown; almost prone is Darian Simerson.



The next event is all about service, but still fun. The youth will be participating in the **Big Day of Serving, Saturday, October 18**. The Shoreline Youth will travel to Bridgeport to serve, to bring hope and help to people in need. Schools, playgrounds and neighborhoods on the west side of Bridgeport need work and renovation. More information on www.groupmissiontrips.com.



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The Rev. Sharon Gracen, Rector
Ronald Baldwin, Organist & 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

OCTOBER

- 18 Big Day of Serving—Youth Group
- 19 Adult Forum, 9:00 AM
- 21 Vestry Meeting 7:00 PM
- 25 Tai-Chi, Guild Room, 8:00 AM (**note changed time & place**)
Cosenza-Litke wedding, 10:00 AM
- 26 Confirm not Conform, 4:30 PM
- 31 Trinity Closet set up, 3:00 PM
Halloween Party, Owenego Inn, 8:30 PM



Room location and a complete calendar may be found at
trinitybranford.org/news/calendar

NOVEMBER

- 1 Trinity's Closet—Parish Hall
Tai Chi—Guild Room, 9:00 AM (**note change of place**)
All Saints Day
- 2 First Sunday Breakfast, 9:00 AM
Taizé Service, 5:00 PM
- 3 Columbus House, 4:00 PM
- 4 Trinity Book Group, 7:00 PM
- 8 Community Dining Room Breakfast, 8:00 AM
- 9 Confirm not Conform, 4:30 PM
Outreach meeting, 11:30 AM
- 16 Adult Forum, 9:00 AM
- 18 Vestry, 7:00 PM
- 22 Worship Ministry Meeting, 10:00 AM
- 23 Confirm not Conform, 4:30 PM
- 27 Thanksgiving Day

