



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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October 2012

“...we are created to be members of one family, the human family, God’s family.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

A Gift From Artemis

Music doesn’t use words, therefore it’s more easily understood; it connects us to each other

Trinity is blessed to have **Artemis Simerson**, Assistant Concertmaster of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra (NHSO), enhance our worship experience with her gifted violin playing. The expressive sound of the violin impacts parishioners in ways that are hard to explain, but a few did their best: “*It takes me down inside to some peaceful place.*” “*I feel peace and calm.*” “*It’s beauty can bring me to tears.*” “*To pass by that beautiful sound on my way to communion is so special.*”



Just as the congregation is being nourished, the anticipation of our response to the violin is what is feeding her. It’s mutual joy. Thirty years of playing helps Artemis to understand what is happening to people sitting in the pews. She too experiences the violin as being more emotional in church than the concert hall, so she prefers to donate her time and gift at Trinity contributing to the spiritual experience than to be on the receiving end in a pew. Artemis explains, “*It’s very humbling to play in church and I feel people appreciate it. It seems effortless for me. There are times*”
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From the Rector



Dear Trinity Family,

It’s harvest time. This year is the first time that I have been personally involved in harvesting. The kitchen garden at the Rectory has yielded a wonderful bounty; tomatoes (of course), so many cucumbers that I was making a daily deposit at the Community Dining Room, a forest of basil, oddly shaped sweet potatoes, melons, and a host of other edible goodies that fill the crisper in the refrigerator. I’ve made cantaloupe pickles, tomato sauce and soup, and pesto for days. It has been a most satisfying experience, especially as I was unsure how the garden would produce.

It’s also harvest time for the summer of Branford Cares. There, help for the organizations who work with our neighbors who are struggling, is much greater awareness

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Spirituality Ministry

From The Rector *(Continued from page 1)*

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15th of the current month. Please e-mail to **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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Full color Messenger is at trinitybranford.org/news

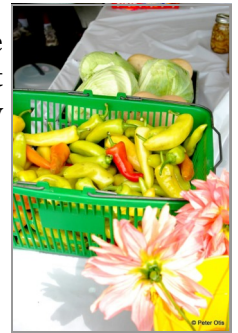
of the unmet needs in our town and there is a pantry full of experiences that came from lemonade stands, tag sales, dinners, block parties, bake sales and corporate projects. Just as my garden was planted in newly prepared ground, so was this novel approach to community fund and awareness raising, and the results are truly satisfying.

The 105th Trinity Fair had a long growing season and the tally continues to grow.

All in all, this harvest season will provide nourishment all around as the days get shorter. I'm blessed to share the bounty with you.

Peace,

Sharon +



Spirituality Ministry

Writing a Creed

The Nicene Creed was a group writing project in the 4th Century at a gathering called the Council of Nicaea. It was meant to give an outline of what Christians believe. The fact that we continue to recite it 1600 years later is testimony to the result of their deliberation and descriptions of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Church. However, the language can be an impediment for some and does not describe things as we might today.

The *Confirm not Conform* curriculum for our youth gave them experience writing their own interpretation of *The Nicene Creed*, last spring. It was such a good experience for them, and their creed was so well received, that the Spirituality Ministry decided to offer a three-week series for the rest of us. Mark your calendar for October 10, 17 and 24.

Please call the office (203-488-2681) to be a part of the 'Council of Branford' and discover for yourself what the statement of faith really means.

A Gift From Artemis

(Continued from page 1)



when I work hard to prepare music for the concert hall, but I don't get the same level of satisfaction as I do when I play in worship. It feels both different to play in a church service and it is received differently. I wouldn't have known that without doing it. I play as much for myself as the people there."

The place within where we are all connected

When the organ music and the Choir are particularly glorious, something bordering on transcendence happens for some people. Emotions stir, goose pimples form, tears well, smiles appear, all reflect the music is incredibly uplifting and joyful! Now add the violin. Artemis explains, *"There's a context in church. Music making is spiritual by nature and it speaks to what is the same in all of us. When people come to church they come with their guard down so the playing is healing in a spiritual setting."*

Artemis has played in many churches at weddings and funerals and notes she has felt most moved at funerals. *"I was completely unprepared. When people are grieving there really is no separation between us as human beings. The skin is missing, and I feel connected to people I don't know at all. It is an unbelievable experience that I have repeated many times, yet I still go unprepared. There is much that separates me from these people, yet ultimately the grief is the same, and so we are all connected."*

Her lifetime of music continue through others

Artemis picked up her first violin when she was eight, after begging her father for one for a whole year! *"The first time I picked it up I noticed how comfortable it was under my chin and I knew what I wanted to do the rest of my life."* Life has turned out well. She grew up in Hamden, connected to music through her father who was a professional musician, playing woodwinds. Since training at the Eastman School in Rochester, she

Administration

became assistant concertmaster for both NHSO and Orchestra New England. *"I was very lucky. I came at the right time to the right place. It's been 30 years with NHSO. I don't know what it would be like not to play there."*

She is also a member of the Wall Street Chamber Players in New Haven, playing concerts at various local venues and in people's homes. In her day job she teaches violin to students at Choate Rosemary Hall, and also takes private students. *"I love what I do and I think I'm a little greedy—but not for money. I have some phenomenally talented students. As I age the teaching becomes more important and the applause is less."*

She and her husband, **Gordon**, live in North Branford with their two sons, **Gabriel** and **Darian**. Artemis and Gordon were raised with very different faith backgrounds, Southern Baptist and Greek Orthodox. They feel they belong at Trinity where the "via media" (middle road) of The Episcopal Church supports their beliefs.

It's hard to determine who receives the greatest gift, parishioners or Artemis? We can only thank her for wonderful stewardship of her gift and hope she will play at Trinity for a long time to come.

Administration

Safe Church Training at Trinity, October 6

The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut holds regular Safe Church training sessions for lay people who work with children, the elderly, those who unable to leave their homes and any others who might be vulnerable to an abuse of authority and power. The goal is to create an atmosphere of confidence and safety. On Saturday, October 6, Trinity Church will host one of the regularly scheduled sessions. All of our Sunday School teachers and youth workers will be attending, as will many of our Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and church leadership, Vestry and Table of Chairs. The session includes:

- Prevention, identification and response to elder abuse
- Prevention, identification and response to sexual abuse of children and youth

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Worship Ministry

Anthems at Trinity in the Anglican Tradition



By Ron Baldwin,
Choir Director and Organist

Most music sung at Trinity, the hymns, the Anglican chant psalms, and the service music, is meant to be sung by everyone. On most Sundays the choir presents one or two short piece of music called anthems. We usually sing an anthem as a Sequence, between the reading of the Epistle and the reading of the Gospel. Also we often sing an anthem during Communion. Some churches sing an anthem at the Offertory, but at Trinity we generally sing a congregational hymn at that point in the service.

When one attends a Russian Orthodox or Greek Orthodox Church, Russian or Greek music is heard. In a traditional Roman Catholic Church one would expect to hear motets by Palestrina and Victoria and masses by Mozart and Haydn. In a Lutheran church one hears lots of German chorales or Scandinavian hymns. In churches attended mostly by Afro-Americans, gospel music is sung. Gospel music provides a majority of the music in many traditional evangelical churches.

We Episcopalians, or Anglicans as we are called in most of the rest of the world, possess an incredibly large collection of short choral pieces intended as anthems for Anglican services. Most of it was written by British composers, but some by American, Canadian, Australian, or New Zealand composers. This year in planning the anthems to present at Trinity, I chose most of them from this Anglican tradition. The eras in which the composers lived, and therefore the styles of their music, span from the 16th to the 21st century.

Also, plainsong, sometimes called Gregorian chant, which comes to us from the earliest days of the church and had grown out of traditional Jewish synagogue and temple chants, is an integral part of the Anglican tradition.

Parish Life Ministry

A Most Practical Gift

Martin Hallier, Sr., and his family have given a very practical, one could say unusual gift, in loving memory of his wife **Sue** who died earlier this year. It is insulation for the attic of the Parish House, which his carpenter son **Walter**, will install. As the church's utility bills go down and we are toasty warm this winter, we will be thankful and reminded of a wonderful and warm woman.

Trinity Book Group, October 3, 7:00 pm

The first convening of the book group for the 2012-13 season is in the Guild Room. *A Reliable Wife*, by Robert Goolrick, is first up. A man isolated on a remote estate in rural Wisconsin, advertises for a reliable wife. What he gets is a woman with a get-rich-quick scheme by poisoning her husband. What she gets is a husband with his own plans.

First Sunday Breakfast: The Tradition Returns!

Gather together on Sunday, October 7 at 9:00 am in the Undercroft for a delicious breakfast and fellowship. On the menu from Crew Chief **Mike Dodd**, is scrambled eggs and bacon, juice, coffee, tea or milk. \$3.50 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. *Please* sign up in the foyer, call the office or email firstsundaybreakfast@trinitybranford.org.

Trinity Transitions



Congratulations, **Debbie and Paul Bradley**! Rev. Sharon officiated at their wedding and many parishioners witnessed the exchange of vows. Debbie is a second generation parishioner, who works at ABC, Learn With Me. Paul is a Veteran's Advocate, working to help veterans get their appropriate

benefits from the Veterans Administration. They will live in North Branford.

The 105th Fair

The 105th Trinity Fair continues to be Stewardship at its best!



Dear Fellow Trinity Angels,

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Without your support, our Fair would have become history. Rather, as of this writing, it looks like we will surpass the money raised last year. No easy feat with the economy in disarray.

But, much more importantly, was the fellowship experienced by all who came out: workers, set-uppers, take-downers, Fair-goers, (my apologies to Merriam Webster) the people who helped the days before and after the big day (work continues on the Silent Auction and Tag Sale!), and those who kept us in your thoughts that day but were unable to attend.

My heartfelt thanks. I am so blessed and proud to be a member of the Trinity Church family, and hope you are, too.

Rodney Hayes, Chair

Dear Bakers, Gardeners, and Preservers of Pickles and Jam,



We, from the Trinity Bake Sale table, thank you more than words can ever say. You did so much. Every contribution was a total

delight. Pies, cake, bread, cookies, cupcakes, produce—everything was handed over to us with such love. And we sold it all! We made \$800, all for the love of Trinity. Thank you, again.

Chris Baird and Sue Rowan, Organizers

Speaking of music connecting all of us,

A special thank you to **Travis Moody** and **Bill Bray** (in



photo) and **Sharon**, for the fabulous music!

Also, for the Silent Auction, a very big thank you to the parishioners who donated such lovely items, and those who bid and helped push up the bids. Please see the Trinity website for a list of local business who helped and be sure to send business their way!

Peggy Esposito, Chair



Charlotte Mattei of Webster Bank and an active Branford community volunteer, won the beautiful handmade Trinity quilt. Thanks for your support!

Parish Life Ministry

Prepare To Be Impressed!

Each year, we will spotlight a behind-the-scenes tell-all of what it takes to prepare for The Fair.

All Those Pies and Peach Shortcake!

Undeniably, an extraordinarily generous amount of baked goods come from **Nancy Collins**, her sister **Betsey Bray** and daughter **Gail Collins**. They baked 15 apple pies, 17 lemon meringue pies, 12 mini-fruit pies (those are for the elderly and people who live alone), and peeled 40lbs of peaches to serve with shortcake and real whipped cream. New this year, they made a sheet-size apple pie, “because a few people don’t like peaches”, paired with a slice of cheese, remembering their mother Edwina would say, “apple pie without the cheese is like a kiss without the squeeze!”



Nancy explains, “Mother made us bake when she ran the bake sale table, and when she stopped, Betsey, Sally Monroe [cousin], Gail and I carried on til a few years back.” Thankfully, the baking continues! The Peach Shortcake is a must-have tradition, and you have to buy your pie early or they are gone!



Recently, they splurged on a manually operated peeler, but recipes and technique don’t change. It’s still a labor of love for many hours, including the shopping—30 lbs of flour, 18 lbs of Crisco, and 10 lbs of sugar—picking 40 lbs of apples, and baking the day before and day of the Fair. Production starts in earnest at 7:30 am Friday morning, with every surface in Betsey’s kitchen commandeered for the cause. The baking smell is yum!



Everybody works to their strength. Betsey explains, “I am a-peel-ing [sorry!],” so she does that, and de-cores and runs the oven. Gail is the chief apple slicer



because her slices are perfectly uniform, and she doubles as the pastry “milker”, and she’s the chief cleaner-upper! Nancy makes perfect pastry and prepares the meringue and real cream early the

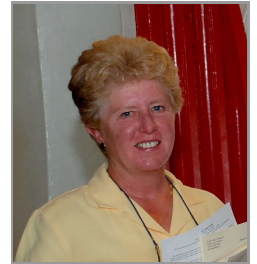
morning of the Fair. With just one oven, Betsey bakes three pies at a time, so it takes all day to complete the baking. Teamwork!

The Fair wouldn’t be the same without them! We look forward to next year. Your love of Trinity tastes good!

Thank you, Rodney!

Rodney Hayes has been a superb chair of The Fair, and we’re happy for her that she steps aside on such a successful year. It’s a big job, takes lots of team work, organization and leadership, and she has pulled it off so well. Thank you!

Sharon



(Continued from page 3)

Administration

- The newly revised diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth
- Power and boundaries in the ministerial relationship with adults
- The diocesan response to misconduct within a community of faith
- Sexual harassment
- Guidelines for Ordained Ministry (many of which apply to lay ministry)

This training may qualify for continuing education credit at your place of employment. Check with your employer before attending.

Outreach Ministry

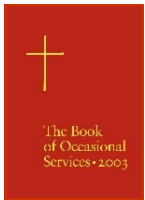
The Boy Scouts, The Episcopal Church and Gays

At the General Convention of the Episcopal Church this summer, a resolution was passed approving the blessing of same sex couples. For those of us in Connecticut, that means that Episcopal clergy are authorized to officiate at same sex weddings. Ordination to any ministry is open to all people. Our Baptismal Covenant calls us to "respect the dignity of every human being."

Since 1991, The Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) policy states, "We believe that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the requirement in the Scout Oath that a Scout be morally straight and in the Scout Law that a Scout be clean in word and deed, and that homosexuals do not provide a desirable role model for Scouts." The BSA thus, "believes that a known or avowed homosexual is not an appropriate role model of the Scout Oath and Law."

The tension between these two positions is real at Trinity, where we sponsor a Cub Scout Pack and a Venture Crew and we have members who are gay. The question is whether these two circumstances can co-exist? Trinity's Vestry had a very good conversation at their September meeting about how we are to think, talk, and seek a way forward. The next step is to broaden the conversation with the members of the congregation and the scouting organization. We invite you to take part in the dialog, an exercise in civil discourse, on October 7th, in the church, after the 10:00 service.

Blessing a Firehouse



The Episcopal Church has a lovely resource called *The Book of Occasional Services*. In it one finds the Anglican version of *Stations of the Cross, Dedication of Church Furnishing and Ornaments, Christmas Lessons and Carols*, and other wonderful things, including the *Celebration for a Home*, a house blessing. When Rev. Sharon was asked to officially bless the new Branford Firehouse, she reached for the handy red book and modified the house blessing into a Firehouse Blessing. It was filled with small bits of scripture and prayers as the doors, the apparatus bay, the day room and kitchen, living quarters, the administrative offices and the community rooms were lifted up and blessed. The firemen who work at the Firehouse, and those who visit, were likewise blessed.

It was good for Trinity to bring its ministry out to the public in such a lovely way.

Branford Cares Summit, October 11



BRANFORD CARES

community taking
care of its own

To wrap up the summer activities of Branford Cares there will be a public summit on October 11, at 7:00 pm, at the new Firehouse. There will be a recap of all that has happened, an official announcement of how much money was raised, some of the ways that money is being used, an update on the needs in Branford (hint: they are still growing), and what we learned this summer.

Plans for the fall through spring projects will also be announced. Everyone is invited to come and take part.

Stewardship—A Way of Life

It's easy to be grateful when the beautiful autumn days delight our senses. It's easy to be grateful when a grandchild runs toward you with arms outstretched. It's easy to be grateful when wonderful things happen. But stewardship is more than gratitude, it truly is an outlook on life, a way of being, a path that one follows.



Stewardship reminds us that everything belongs to God and we are the vehicles through which God works. A steward considers how time is best spent, how talents are used and how treasure is shared for the good of God's people and plan.

Fall is the traditional time for Trinity's Annual Pledge Campaign and gratitude for this wonderful parish is certainly a big part of our giving, but you are always asked to put your treasure into a God context. How would God prefer you to use it? How do you organize your giving so that it is a perpetual reminder of your honored role as a steward of God's treasure that has been given to you for the good of the world?

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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

October 2012, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7 pm Trinity Brook Group	4	5	6 Safe Church Training
7 1st Sunday Breakfast; Blessing of the Animals	8 Columbus Day, Church office closed	9	10 Writing a Creed	11 7 pm Bran- ford Cares Sum- mit @ Firehouse	12	13
14	15	16 Vestry meet- ing	17 Writing a Creed	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Writing a Creed	25 Field of Flags on the Green	26 Field of Flags on the Green	27 Field of Flags on the Green
28 Field of Flags on the Green	29 Field of Flags on the Green	30 Field of Flags on the Green	31 All Hallows Eve; Field of Flags on the Green			