

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

September/October 2013

Trinity's total donations for the labyrinth ...



1,860 cans of food!

"Life in abundance comes only through great love."

Elbert Hubbard

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Who Are We?

In the town of Branford, Trinity is first known for its iconic architecture, the beautiful white church on the Green, and espe-

cially for our red doors. But we all know that we are much more than our building. The congregation of Trinity has always been ready to do things together, to help one another when needed.

Like nearly all churches, the personality and vision of the clergy has

determined much about the character of a congregation. Historically, Trinity was a very clergy-centric parish, focused on the pastoral needs of the members. While there were active outreach initiatives—Columbus House, Branford Food Pantry contributions,

problem! Finally, time to do that Archie Hanna Memorial Window - let's do it! What about a \$15,000 Outreach Ministry budget of course we can manage that! What about a Legacy Fund to add to our endowment -

(Continued on page 2)

From The Rector



Dear Trinity Family,

As Peter and I reflected on three years of ministry with you here, we know that we have been blessed, we have grown and we have both learned many things. One thing that has become crystal clear is the need for and power of community. Community gives us a sense of belonging; it gives us confidence, knowing that we are not alone. We see how blessed people are when they have it, and how devastating

it is for those who don't. Community is one of the best reasons for people to join a church. Christianity is a communal experience. We may pray alone; but we cannot worship successfully on our own.

When trouble comes, those without community are particularly vulnerable. At best, they are not able to take advantage of opportunities. At worst, they fall with no one to help them to their feet again. Disconnection is a modern epidemic. Luckily, we get opportunities to make a

and Guatemala in particular—the Trinity Fair was the primary connection to the Branford community. When Rev. Sharon first arrived,

she heard more than one person remark, "We're a small, poor little church."

Who thinks that now? Certainly not the people in Branford. They see us as a vibrant, active church that gets things done and responds to the needs of the community. (See Rev. Sharon's letter.) Trinity is a church with a thriving leadership corps and a can -do attitude. Need 1,700 cans for a labyrinth - no

(Continued on page 2)

Who Are We?

(Continued from page 1)

\$80,000 in its first year! The community is in the dark after a hurricane - let's feed them dinner! Sing the "Sanctus" from the St. Cecilia Mass (something Ron has wanted his choir to do since the 1970s) - check! Over-achieved so much in Thanksgiving Turkey Dinners for struggling families, that we covered Christmas too - easy!

We made an enormous effort and financial contribution to the inaugural summer of Branford Cares, and stirred the hearts of others to help. We have risen to new challenges (dare we say we are enjoying them?), and tried new ministries and new ideas, each of which offer more ways to connect to each other and the community. It's all good. We are indeed rich. This is who we are.

We are also made up of people who give their time and talents in the community. This list is just a start: Mike Dodd gives hours every week to the Food Pantry; Dru Dodd serves on the Food Pantry Board; Sue Wharfe is a member of the Board of Education; Cathy Seibyl is on the Board of Read to Grow; Sandy Baldwin and Perdita Norwood both serve on the Board of the Blackstone Library; Mike Freeman, Marty Hallier and Richard Peck drive the Senior Center medical transportation every week; Otty Norwood is on the Board of BCTV & The Green Restoration; Roz Jones sits on the Elderly Commission.

This is also who we are! Let's keep this list going. Please let us know how you serve in the community.

(Continued from page 1)

From The Rector continued

difference. Trinity had one in August. A local Good Samaritan was referred to us by several community leaders, to see if we could help a woman who had the opportunity to receive some training that will increase her earning potential and thereby keep her family above water. All she needed was a ride into New Haven for five weeks. On her own, she had no way to do it and no resources to tap. But, thanks to a fleet of volunteers from this congregation, she will be able to complete her classes, and then new doors will open. I am grateful to everyone who was willing to extend themselves for a stranger and be community for her. It was a beautiful thing to see.

Peace,

Sharon +	Sh.	an ann.	+
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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

Articles and event notices will be reviewed by an editor. Editorial rights are reserved for clarity and to fit space constraints.

Messenger Contributors

what to do with it!)

Features	Rev. Sharon, Ann Freeman		
Design	Ann Freeman		
Editor	Bill Baskin		
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A color issue is on trinitybranford.org/news

Roberta Rowe

Trinity Leadership

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

Vestry

Andy Campbell, Janet Daley, Dru Dodd, Kelley Esposito, Terry Kron, Ed Monico, Peter Otis, Kathy Sanchez, Carol Schaller

Staff

Parish Administrator: Sexton:

Jane Dougherty Nancy Williams

Worship Ministry

Christian Education Ministry



Sandra Baldwin Chair

INTERACTIVE SERMON

The Worship Ministry will facilitate an interactive discussion during the sermon, on **October 6.** This will be a time for all parishioners to share their thoughts about worship at Trinity. We will provide some "things to ponder" in the bulletin on September 29, giving you time to think about specific parts of the service before the discussion time. If you have any areas of concern that you would like to see on the agenda, please speak with or email Sharon or Sandy. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about our worship.

WELCOME!





Adam Humphrey, Acolyte Janet Constantino, Chalice Bearer

Music



BY RON BALDWIN MUSIC DIRECTOR

Join the Choir!

Have you ever considered joining our Trinity Church Choir? We are looking bers

for some additional members.

If you regularly attend services at Trinity, have a good sense of musical pitch, can read musical notation (even just a little would be OK), have had a bit of choral experience, and enjoy singing, you might just be one of our newest members!

If you are interested, please come by the organ console after the 10 o'clock Sunday Eucharist, and make yourself known to me. I will answer any questions you might have about singing with our group.



MARTHA MONICO CHAIR

CHURCH SCHOOL: SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM

Church School began September 15, but it's not too late to register. Children ages 3-14 years are divided into three classrooms. For

preschool and elementary ages we offer two Godly Play classes.

For middle school aged youth we will offer one classroom, with a new curriculum this



year called *Witness*. Our teachers are experienced youth workers and have training in safe church.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see Jen Zehler or Martha Monico.

ADULT FORUMS IN THE PARISH HALL, 9:00 AM

September 22

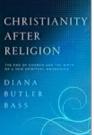
Jen Zehler will regale us with her experiences in Haiti this past summer and provide a slide show of the people she encountered and places she lived for one month.



October 20

This is a Trinity-wide book read and discussion of *Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass. Please get a copy of this book, read it and be ready with your questions and comments. Rev. Sharon will lead the discussion.

See you in the Parish Hall!



Parish Life Ministry



PETER H. HAYES CHAIR

TRINITY TRANSITIONS

We say so-long to Mary and Selden Henry, long-time parishioners who now reside permanently in Florida. We shall miss seeing them every summer.

Marathon marriages are marvelous! Recent anniversaries include: Bobbe and Peter Otis, 43 years; Dru and Mike Dodd, 47 years; Jo-Ann and Dave Pearson, 55 years; Oda and Frank Zemina, 60 years, Congratulations!

We offer our condolences to Erskine Crossley on the loss of his beloved wife, Ginny. May her soul and all those of the departed, rest in peace. Amen.

NEWCOMER MINISTRY



Who better to lead this ministry than Sara and Neil Anglemire? They are a delightful young couple, working professionals, with active lives, and relatively new to Trinity. They can relate to the needs and concerns of newcomers and the time challenges of

modern lives. They are eager to welcome others to Trinity, and have begun working on a refreshed newcomer program.

Beginning with October's First Sunday Breakfast, they plan on using this fellowship setting to host newcomers. Anyone interested in being a host from time-to-time, should contact **newcomerministry@trinity-branford.org.** More to come.

TRINITY BOOK GROUP, OCTOBER 2

By Cindy Sheppard, Coordinator

Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Zora Neale Hurston, is reported to be the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature, since its 1978 re-issue. It brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos as only Hurston can do.

Everyone is invited to the Guild Room at 7:00 PM to participate in our lively discussion.

FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY NIGHT, OCTOBER 4, 5:30 PM

This is a chance for parents to get together, have a meal (food will be provided), and let our kids play (activities and movie provided). Bring the whole family to relax together, and discuss issues pertaining to our kids.

Open to everyone in the community. Please share and spread the word. Mark your calendar now!

FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST, OCTOBER 6

Join old friends and make new friends while you enjoy a hearty breakfast of scrambled eggs 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. Thank you!

106TH TRINITY FAIR: PROGRESSION OF A TRADITION



BY DOTTIE PACKER FAIR COORDINATOR

The church Fair is a Trinity tradition, but this was my first year as Coordinator. I

saw so much love. Every day as people connected with me, and I connected them to others, the energy buzz kept growing. Creating the tapestry of the Fair develops over time. We built on tradition by welcoming new ideas and trying new things. But, I realize the foundation is love, and the stewardship in our community is strong. It's so fitting that the pattern in this years' raffle quilt was called *Love Song*. There are lots of little hearts lovingly quilted within the larger hearts, representing the hearts of the Trinity parishioners. That theme flowed into the 106th Fair. If you were part of the energy and excitement, and helped Trinity to spread smiles, then you will have known this love.

The collective contribution of the team leaders made this Fair a great success. *Messenger* space limits requires the team leaders to join me in a resounding group THANK YOU! to all of you for every bit of time, talent and treasure given. We had fun, fellowship, fabulous food, and financially raised \$15,000!



Who makes the adorable Raggedy Ann each year? Dru Dodd!

Judie Cavanaugh had constant customers at her Face Painting tent! Not sure if there were more adults or kids!?



The labyrinth of canned goods was walked by many people.



Rev. Sharon & Clare Barnett help pass canned goods through the Parish Hall window to make the labyrinth.



Many thanks to Peter Otis, for superb photographs!

Bill Holohan and daughter Kathy Sanchez were among the many who could not resist the peach shortcake and cream, courtesy of Betsey Bray & Nancy Collins.



Forget Free Will! Maryann Allen & Wendy Cowles (Director, Branford Food Pantry) are priceless!



Jams, Jellies & Dahlias from the Otis house embellish the Baked goods table.



See all Fair photo albums on trinitybranford.org /News & Events

TRINITY'S CLOSET, OCTOBER 26



BY KATHY SANCHEZ, COORDINATOR

Trinity's Closet will be held Saturday, October 26, from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. We will set up Friday in the Parish Hall, starting at 3:30 PM, and will gratefully accept help from volunteers.

If you are cleaning out closets, we are collecting gently used, clean, sheets, blankets, towels, fall and winter clothing, and new pillows. Also needed are personal items such as deodorants, toothpaste, men's razors, shampoos (men's too) and moisturizers. Also all kinds of cleaning liquids, laundry detergents, bleach, fabric softener sheets and stain fighters. You may leave your donations in the undercroft hallway.

We had a very large turnout of neighbors in the Spring, so we anticipate as many will come to us again. Please contact **trinitycloset@trinitybranford.org** with questions or to volunteer.

WHATSOEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF MY BROTHERS ... BY CATHY AND JOHN SEIBYL

Erick Estuado Garcia Aguirre is 16 years old and still attends high school.

While it is very common for 16 year-olds to be in school in Branford, and all developed countries, this is quite unusual in Erick's country, Guatemala. Erick is an unusual Guatemalan teen, as only half of children in Guatemala graduate from elementary school. Most adults have only a 6th grade education; and one-third of the population lives on less than \$2 per day. Guatemala is the second poorest country in the Americas, mired in self-propagating cycles of poverty passed from one generation to the next, driven by the limited opportunities afforded by a lack of education.



Erick, Cathy and John Seibyl, Dinora Angelica with baby Mario and Mario Sr.



Besides meeting Erick, we were able to meet Ed & Martha Monico's newly sponsored child, 11 year-old Elder seen with his mother, Maria.

We have played a small, quiet, but palpably significant role in Erick's life by making possible the uncommon, seemingly unreachable goal of obtaining a high school degree. We have been his sponsors through the not-for-profit, *Common Hope*, for the last eight years. Our sponsorship alleviates pressure on Erick, the eldest child in his household, to leave school and help his parents financially. If Erick completes high school (and we have every confidence that he will), he will double his earning potential and end the cycle of poverty in his family. Through this sponsorship we have improved Erick's life, and the life of his parents and his siblings through education, health care and housing.

We met Erick for the first time this summer, joining a *Common Hope* Vision Team from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Erick told us that his passion is mathematics and soccer. He plans to continue with his education; and his studies will focus on becoming an accountant.

The highlight of our week in Guatemala was the construction of a two-bedroom structure for a *Common Hope* sponsored family. Imagine working side by side with a family, building a home over a span of five days - a cement floor, waterproof walls, windows, doors and metal roofing. The finished project was celebrated at the end of our stay with a house blessing, cake, words of gratitude from the family, hugs and tears.

We have been asked by *Common Hope* to spread the word of this important ministry, so that more Guatemalan families can be helped to raise themselves out of poverty. If you feel called to this important work please consider sponsoring a child. We would be happy to discuss our experience, which we feel has given back to us immensely more than we have given. Funny how these things work out that way.

Spirituality Ministry

Finance Ministry

HEALTH MINISTRY



By Janet Constantino Coordinator

"We need to climb back into our bodies and honor them as instruments of our souls. They are the means through which the Divine takes shape in the world, crucibles in which the raging blaze of spirit is transformed into luminous thought, radiant creations, enlightened action. We are the word made flesh and through our bodies, we are continuing the creation of the universe." Jan Phillips

HEALTH MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT

Trinity Episcopal Church is an involved, faith-filled community committed to the spiritual, psychological and physical well-being of it's members. Health Ministry blends nursing practice and spiritual care giving, focusing on the intentional care of the spirit as well as the promotion of a wholistic life style.

MIND

SPIRIT

BODY

HEALTH MINISTRY GOAL

To promote and integrate spirituality and wellness.



1. Health Advisor: provide information on the risks, benefits and outcomes of healthcare regimens to allow for informed decision-making, including informed consent and informed refusal.

2. Health Advocate: provide assistance in identifying appropriate and available resources to address health-related needs across the healthcare continuum.

3. Health Educator: provide health education that addresses such topics as healthy lifestyle, risk-reducing behaviors, developmental needs, activities of daily living, preventive self-care, and spiritual practices for health and healing.

"The body is a sacred garment. It is your first and last garment. It is what you entered life in, and what you depart with and it should be treated with honor." Martha Graham

The ministry group is looking for parishioner input. Watch for an upcoming survey.

N-0-00



RODNEY HAYES JUNIOR WARDEN

SHEPARD FUND AWARDS

On Sunday, August 18, Trinity Church awarded scholarships from the Mabel Shepard Scholarship Fund to the following Trinity members:

Jillian Denhardt, attending St. Michael's University Julius Feniola, Jr. attending Gateway Community College Alyson Humphrey attending Western New England University Patrick Monico attending University of Connecticut Will Pottenger attending Occidental University Jennifer Seibyl attending Skidmore College Adam Williams attending Quinnipiac University Sarah Williams attending Southern Connecticut State University

This year, we are very pleased to increase the size of each scholarship to \$1,000, paid in two installments, August 2013 and January, 2014.

We are very proud of our students, and wish them great success in the year ahead!

Annual Post Office requirement for inclusion in newsletter.

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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 And AT&T Channel 99 7:00 PM Sundays

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2013, Special Dates

every day calendar @ trinity branford.org/news

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
eAutumn		1	2 Trinity Book Group, 7 PM	3	4 First Friday Family Night, 5:30 PM	5
6 Interactive sermon ; First Sunday Break- fast, 9 AM	7 Columbus House	8 Pastoral Care, noon	9	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED	15 Vestry 7 PM	16	17	18	
20 Adult Forum 9 AM	21	22	23	24	25 Trinity Closet setup, 3:30 PM	26 Trinity's Closet
27 Youth Group	28	29	30	31 All Hallows Eve		