



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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September to October 15, 2014

WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BE NOW?



Steve Carlson
Chair,
Stewardship
Ministry

In the past year since coming to Trinity, my wife Cathy and I have observed that Trinity is blessed with many wonderful Stewards, people who give generously of their time, talent and treasure to the Mission of this church. The recent Fair is the latest visible example of good stewardship. Many thanks to all who assisted and participated!

This fall, Sharon is asking us to consider, 'What is God doing in our midst and through us? Who is God calling us to be now?' As part of our annual pledge drive we

are therefore inviting all Trinity members to participate in a traditional Episcopal 'cottage meeting.' Such a big question is best discussed in small groups, hence the term cottage meetings.

Four years ago when Sharon was called as Trinity's rector, you knew who you wanted to become a program-style church. Membership had grown beyond what one clergy could manage alone, so the ministries were re-organized with additional lay leaders empowered to manage them, lightening the daily oversight by the rector. Specific goals were set, and thus began a different way of being. Trinity has met those goals and become a program-style church.

(Continued on page 2)



*I would maintain that
thanks are the highest
form of thought, and that
gratitude is happiness
doubled by wonder.*

Gilbert K. Chesterton



Inside this issue:

Worship Ministry	3
Spiritual Education Ministry	4
Pastoral Care Ministry	5
Outreach Ministry	5
Parish Life Ministry	6
Leadership	7
Communication Ministry	7

FROM THE RECTOR



Empty nest. The image conjures so many different images. I chatted briefly this morning, at the corner in front of our house, with the mother of a 1st grader who was struggling with her little one venturing out into the world on a school bus. She was having a hard time.

I remember very well when my two children were no longer children, but young adults, and left for college. The first year wasn't too bad, because I knew that my son Brady would be home soon for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and quite possibly other random visits

(accompanied by friends and oodles of dirty laundry).

But the next year he left with furniture, moving into an apartment, which meant that he really lived somewhere else and wouldn't necessarily be home for summers between school years. It was also the year that my daughter Melanie left for Indiana University, albeit only an hour away. It was a shock to the system, expressed primarily through the tear ducts.

One big difference for me was that, as my youngest began college, I started full time in semi-

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RECTOR *CONTINUED*

Continued from page 1

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15th of the current month. Please e-mail to **communication@trinitybranford.org**. 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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Carlson, Ann Freeman, Peter Hayes, Mike
McGuinness, Martha Monico, Cathy Seibyl

Staff

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nary. Not everyone has such a diversion. I loved the studies and the whole seminary world, while I was aware of the extra blessing it provided.

It is perfectly appropriate to understand an empty (or emptier) nest as grief. Grief is a human reaction to certain changes. Someone is gone, or a time for something precious is over, and the void creates the ache of grief.

It is always the beginning of a new time, life that is different. There is no one way to experience or understand it. It can feel sad, or it can feel like freedom.

This time of year, may we all be gentle and respectful of how our friends and neighbors are feeling.

Peace,

Sharon +



(Continued from page 1)

WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BE NOW?

So what are our new goals and what will we need to meet them? At the meetings, we will have information about how we are doing at this point, how we fund all of the things we do, and how our budget reflects what we believe and who we are.

We need your input. We need to hear how Trinity makes a difference in your lives. Then we can discern together and set new goals. The meetings promise to be time well spent.

All Trinity members will be invited to attend one of the cottage meetings, which will be held at the home of a fellow parishioner or at church in late September and early October. We will make every attempt to offer a flexible schedule. Please check the Sunday bulletins and other communication for more details.

I look forward to seeing you at a meeting and hearing your ideas about how we can sustain the health and well-being of all that is Trinity Branford, at least into the foreseeable future.

Thoughts and questions, contact me at stewardship@trinity-branford.org.



WORSHIP MINISTRY



Sandy Baldwin Chair

The Worship Ministry is pleased to announce a new initiative for the 2014 and 2015 years.

Beginning in September, during worship services Rev. Sharon will be commissioning, thanking and highlighting all our ministry volunteers. On **September 14** the Sunday School teachers and members of the Music Ministry will be commissioned at the 10:00 AM service. Rev. Sharon will acknowledge each group and its members, and will offer a prayer of guidance as they begin a new year.

We see this as a time to link all our ministries to our common goal of serving our Lord, and doing that with the parish at our Worship time. This will give us an opportunity to share the ministry and its people and work with the congregation, and to say thanks to all who dedicate their time, talents and efforts. It will give the ministry chair an opportunity to share the work of the ministry and give information about joining the ministry.

All ministries and groups will be highlighted at a worship service between September and May. Groups will be notified, usually a month before their Sunday, so that most people will be able to attend a service where they are thanked and/or commissioned. Many of the ministries will be commissioned at both Sunday services.

New faces participating

This summer we have welcomed new lectors. At the 8:00 AM service,



Drew Cosenza

and



Jeff Litke

And at the 10:00 AM service,



Ron Baldwin

and



Cheryl Hyder

We say thank you to Frank Zemina and Jeff Kron, who have retired as lectors.

Three Worship Ministry subgroups can use more volunteers. We are seeking interested people to usher at both services, to serve on the Altar Guild, and to video tape the 10:00 AM service. If you would like more information on any of these ministries, please speak with me or email worship@trinity-branford.org.

Thanksgiving for the birth of a child

Baby Claire Anglemire, with mom Sara and dad Neil.

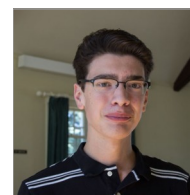


You Spoke—We Listened

In early August we needed to have Morning Prayer as the service of the day. Many people expressed how much they enjoyed the prayers and the canticles, and asked if we could use them again in the future. The request was to use Rite 1 as a reminder of past experiences. We will use Morning Prayer Rite 1 on **November 9** as the Liturgy of the Word. At the end of Morning Prayer we will then continue with Holy Communion. After this service we will be asking for your thoughts, and decide if we will offer this format three or four times a year.

Music Ministry

The men's choir has never been bigger! They are very pleased to welcome Gabe Simerson as a new bass.



It was good to see our summer-time members worship with us. See you next summer!

Spiritual Ministry



Martha Monico Chair

Adult Forums are held at 9:00 AM on the Third Sunday of each month, in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, September 21st Jen Zehler and Cathy Seibyl will present *Spirituality of the Child: What is our role as a congregation of baptized Christians?*

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

Sunday, November 16th Joe Brummer and Jen Zehler will present their pictures and stories from India and the International School for Jain Studies.

Godly Play: Jen Zehler, Coordinator



Godly Play is offered on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM for children preschool through 5th grade. Our first Sunday will be **September 14th, with a registration pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall at 9:00 AM**. This year, this first day of church school will start in the sanctuary, with their teachers being commissioned in front of the congregation before heading downstairs.

Two classes are offered during the year; one for younger children and one for older elementary children. Your child will be placed into a class after the September 14th registrations are submitted. Our teachers and doorkeepers will be available on the 14th for you to meet. Thereafter, we have a rotating schedule of teachers and doorkeepers.

The Top Six Ways Parents Can Support Their Children in Godly Play, by Kathleen Capcara, accredited Godly Play trainer

1. Tell stories at home.
2. Respect your children as people on their own distinct spiritual journeys.
3. Avoid asking your children, "What did you learn in Sunday school this week?"
4. Respect the sacred space of the Godly Play classroom.
5. Bring your children to Godly Play as regularly as you can manage.
6. Bring your children to class on time.

Church school registration forms are on the home page of the Trinity website; also there is a quick link in the Friday Trinity In Touch.

A Bigger and Better Youth Group

The Episcopal Churches on the shoreline between New Haven and the Connecticut River are doing something new. The clergy of these parishes meet every month to share lunch, news, challenges, and triumphs. One persistent issue for many churches is critical mass for youth activities, so this group has decided to join the parishes together to create one large youth group with some great activities planned.

The group is called **Shoreline East Episcopal Youth**. The youth will all meet each other at an overnight at Bushy Hill Nature Center in Ivoryton, on **Friday, September 19-20**. This gathering will be strictly fun, with a night hike, the ropes course, water activities (depending on the weather), shared meals, and other activities organized by the camp staff. All 6-12th graders are invited. There will be more events to come, several with a service component such as a work day in Bridgeport, helping with Chapel on the Green in New Haven, and a mission trip next summer. Rev. Sharon, Martha Monico, and Jen Zehler are supporting this ministry. Stay tuned!



Health Ministry

Tai Chi with Suzanne Hanley will resume on **Saturday, September 20th, 9:00 am in the Parish Hall**. We meet on Saturdays for an hour of warmup and balance work with movements. The cost is \$5.00 per class, payable upon arrival. Wear comfortable clothing; no equipment necessary.



PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY



Cathy Seibyl
Chair

The Pastoral Care Ministry is delighted to announce that Donna Robinson (photo below) is the new coordinator of Trinity's re-invigorated Meal Ministry. Donna has pulled together a team of 15 folks so far, each available to make meals for members of our Trinity family.

As the Meal Ministry Coordinator, Donna is made aware of a need from the larger Pastoral Care team or through a referral from someone in the church. She reaches out to the family/individual to identify diet restrictions, food allergies, likes and/or dislikes, delivery times, etc. A schedule is established and volunteers are then contacted and asked to prepare a meal and deliver it to the recipient. Meals are provided on either a short or long-term basis, depending on the need.



This ministry is intended for anyone in need; after surgery or a hospitalization, as a blessing to families welcoming a new baby home, as a simple comfort in times of loss and grief, and just one tangible way for us to say that we love and care for one another.

If you feel at all called to help in this ministry, or if you know of someone who might be in need, please contact either Donna, myself, or Jane (office) and Rev. Sharon.

Donna: mealministry@trinitybranford.org

Cathy: pastoralcare@trinitybranford.org



At the altar this summer, Sharon shared the joy and mystery of holy communion with some of Trinity's children. Seen here, Lexi Brown.

OUTREACH MINISTRY



Joe Brummer
Chair

Take A Vet Fishing

The First Congregational Church of Branford began an outreach program to our area veterans in 2007. Many of the vets who enjoy a day of fishing, some for the very first time, are visually impaired or have other disabilities. Take A Vet Fishing gives a great day to those who have given much in service.

This year, for the first time, Trinity is going to help provide the meals for the day of fishing on **October 11th**. We are partnering with The Stony Creek Congregational Church to feed the 100+ vets and volunteers. As you might imagine, that's a lot of coffee cake and muffins for breakfast, and dogs and burgers, potato salad, baked beans, cookies and other stuff for lunch. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, if you would like to help with this great day. You can also come and help with the grillin' and chillin' with the vets. Please sign up no later than **October 5th**. Trinity's team leader is Joe Brummer.

Poodle skirts and saddle shoes!

Come to the most fun *Branford Cares* event yet. The First Annual Sock Hop at the Dance in Rhythm Studio (across from the Library). Rock around the clock to music from the 50's and 60's on Saturday, **September 27th** from 7:00 -10:00 PM.



Learn how to do the Stroll and other simple dances, and then twist the night away. Your \$20 ticket will go to the good work of *Branford Cares*. Let's get a good Trinity group together and have a blast!

Trinity's Closet November 1 — Save the Date!

Our semi-annual Trinity's Closet is scheduled for Saturday morning, **November 1**, with setup on the afternoon of Friday, **October 31**. We need help in two ways: (1) your time to help setup, and (2) your treasures from your closet or purchased household products.



PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

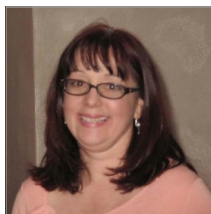


Peter Hayes
Chair

First Sunday Breakfast, October 5

The first Sunday of the month breakfasts re-start **October 5**. Crew Chief Mitch Rucinski is keeping us in suspense about the menu. Will it be as unexpected as the burritos—which were a big hit!? Come and find out, and enjoy the time where 8 o'clockers meet 10 o'clockers! Also on the menu: juice, tea/coffee. \$3.50 adults, \$2 per child, \$10 family maximum. Please sign up in the foyer, call the office, or email firstsundaybreakfast@trinitybranford.org. Thank you!

Trinity Book Group, October 7



Cindy Sheppard
Coordinator

In September we met to set the 2014-2015 syllabus. Discussion groups will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. However, we are trying something new, where the person choosing the book will usually host the group discussion at their home. Check the membership directory for addresses. The next discussion is **October 7**, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, by Katherine Boo; host is Jen Zehler.

Everyone is invited. We look forward to lively discussions.

The 107th Fair Was Fabulous Fellowship!



Dottie Packer
The Fair Coordinator

The mission of the Fair is twofold: finance and fellowship. This year the latter was more impressive as a result of the volunteer initiative. Thank you to

Ann Freeman and Maryann Allen for their effort to increase volunteer participation. The theory was less tired people in all venues would be able to enjoy the day more; but the heat and humidity may have succeeded in depleting just about everybody! Despite the heat, there was a more relaxed atmosphere,

and happy folks were singing and dancing to the DJ music! The joy of this event needs to be shared and that is what we were trying to achieve. By involving more members, we amped up the energy, team spirit and fellowship, and spread some community love. You can't help but get "high" on that! People from the community commented to Rev. Sharon, "Trinity people are happy people."



Some of the friendly folks at the Farmer's Market. Left to right: Glenn & Jen Zavorskas, and Holly Kennedy.

The food and desserts were fantastic. I was thrilled to eat my hot-dog wrapped in a blueberry pancake, since breakfast and lunch were on a continuum! Nice job Mitch and Peter! Followed by peach shortcake for dessert—what's a Trinity Fair without that?

In behalf of all the team leaders, we send a huge thank you to everyone for their contributions—donations, time, talent, treasures—baked goods and Farmer's Market were swamped with homemade and homegrown, Silent Auction was bigger than ever, tag sale was huge, etc. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



On a personal note

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Trinity Fair Coordinator for the past two years. As my two-year term comes to a close, I would like to thank each and everyone for recognizing that the team effort and love are what has carried this tradition.

LEADERSHIP



Mark McElrath
Senior Warden

Over the last few months, a committee has been meeting and corresponding with three companies that specialize in stained glass window restoration. We asked each company to evaluate the condition of all our stained glass windows. They all came to the same general assessment – the two Tiffany windows on the Parish Hall side of the church need immediate attention; and the third Tiffany, lovingly referred to as the Three-Footed Angel, needs restoration but can wait a couple of years without any further damage. The two that need immediate attention show bowing where they should be flat; and multiple cracks have started appearing and seem to be growing. We have been advised not to open any of the Tiffany windows, and also the older windows on the Parish Hall side of the church, to avoid further damage.

These windows are very valuable and are irreplaceable. So, being good stewards of Trinity's assets, we have contracted with Stained Glass Resources, Inc. to restore the two Tiffany windows that need the most and immediate attention. Both windows will be removed and replaced with plywood covered with photographic renditions of the windows. The two windows will be taken to the company's studio in Massachusetts and restored to their original beauty, to be enjoyed for another hundred years. This process will take about six months.

As you can probably guess, this is not an inexpensive endeavor, but one that must be done. To cover the expenses we will borrow \$50,000 from our endowment fund; and the remaining \$65,000 will be a combination of borrowing through our Diocesan loan, and soliciting for donations. We are researching some possible grants, and will be discussing donations with parishioners who might be able to contribute to this need.



COMMUNICATION MINISTRY

Have you moved in the last year? Changed your phone number? Changed your email address? If so, have you let the office know? Have you updated your contact information in the online pictorial membership directory? We're printing the directory for people who do not have a computer, so be sure your information is up-to-date. Maybe a current photo would be good!



Parish Life Ministry *continued*

Summer was non-stop fun and giving

The Legacy Society celebrated its founding members at the home of Bill and Toni Schmitt. . . . Strictly Social party-goers gathered together at Branford Point Park for several picnics and fun . . . Jen Zehler and Joe Brummer



travelled to India to study transformative peace A full crew carried on the monthly Columbus House meals tradition Another kitchen crew served breakfast at the Branford Community Dining Room Rodney Hayes weeded, and Mike Freeman and Jim Atkinson trimmed shrubs, to keep up the church grounds



the Humphrey family took a big family vacation out west and visited The Center Pole on the Crow reservation in Montana (that's Alyson with a Crow baby) Sharon wove poetry into her summer sermons, which worshipers enjoyed Mike McGuinness toiled relentlessly (and continues) on several large building repair and replacement projects Shepard Scholarships were awarded to Taegan Williams, Jenny Seibyl, Alyson Humphrey, Alexa Rucinski, Julius

Feniola, Jr., Jillian Denhardt, Robert Denhardt, Patrick Monico, Adam Williams, Sarah Williams, Drew Cosenza, and Will Pottenger. *Below, Gems on the Jewelry Team!*



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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

SEPTEMBER

14 — 1st day of Sunday School—9:00 AM breakfast
Outreach meeting, 11:30 AM
Newcomer Gathering, 4:00-6:00 PM

19 — 20 Shoreline East Episcopal Youth overnight

20 — Tai Chi, 9:00 AM

21 — Adult Forum, 9:00 AM

27 — 1st Annual Sock Hop for Branford Cares
Tai Chi 9:00 AM



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

OCTOBER

5 — First Sunday Breakfast, 9:00 AM

6 — Columbus House, 4:00 PM

7 — Book Group, 7:00 PM

11 — Take A Vet Fishing

19 — Adult Forum, 9:00 AM

Fun Fair Facts

- Peter Otis took over 400 photos. Wow! Thank you!
- Betsy McMahon (attorney in town) won the *Spinning Pinwheels* quilt. (Thanks to the Trinity raffle ticket sales team, present at all the Branford jazz concerts.)
- Laurie VanWilgen was the high bidder on the coveted wheelbarrow of wine.
- 1,340 lbs of food (1,160 cans) was logged into the Branford Food Pantry.
- More than 150 adults and children helped with the Fair.