



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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July 2018

The Long & Winding Road To Renovation

"It's like we have a Christmas present, and now we want to know when we can open it." Bobbe Otis said it best at the Vestry retreat, as everyone reflected on how the visitations for the initial capital campaign went. To quote overused words -- Wow! Awesome! It's a wonderful start; but there's more to do.

This renovation project is no small task; and an army of people have stepped forward to help make it possible. This began with Rev. Sharon who, in 2016, envisioned a renovation of this magnitude to be possible; in 2018 she selected Cathy & John Seibyl as the most respected, beloved, and well-known members of the congregation, to be the Campaign Chairs.

Director of Musical Folks: "We have been holding our music and music classes for young children and their families at the church for several years now, and our families and teachers love having our classes at the church. Everyone at Trinity has been wonderful and welcoming to us over the years; and our families are happy taking music class at their church."

The 2016 Vestry asked vestry member Dave Howell—a professional Development Officer—to chair the search for a consultant and take the preliminary step of doing a Financial Feasibility Study. Through Dave's leadership, Maryann Doyle was hired to do the study.

Vestry also identified another key leader, parishioner Bob Barnett, architect by profession, to lead the Lower Level Renovation Steering Committee.

Without talented and qualified leadership in these key roles, what would we do? We have so many blessings!

From The Capital Campaign Chairs



Dear Friends,

Approximately 3 months ago we launched **A Legacy of Love**, The Campaign for Trinity Church. We had an aspirational goal to raise \$850,000 of the roughly 1.8 million dollars needed for the physical renovation to make the church and undercroft safe and accessible for all persons, to upgrade the kitchen, and to install a columbarium. We met our fiscal goal and went beyond. As we write

this letter, pledges and pre-campaign monies total nearly 1.3 million dollars.

More important perhaps, it became abundantly clear that the campaign was much more than raising money. There was a remarkable coalescence of the parish community, an esprit de corps, characterized by a focused energy, bubbling vibrancy, and sense of fun. What at the onset seemed a daunting task became a model for how we can be together; the work in achieving our aspirational goal at campaign's end was truly more inspirational than perspirational.

The Campaign for Trinity Church



A Legacy of Love

Sixty-nine willing and enthusiastic volunteers worked on this campaign in multiple and sundry ways; hospitality, telephoning and visitations. We recall some visitors expressing initial concern about their capacity to do this work, the sense of awkwardness and discomfort in talking about something as private as personal finances.

We reminded them that we as a church community are all about working through the most important issues of our lives, our births and deaths, our triumphs and failures, our most intimate and private beliefs about the meaning and purpose of our walk

From The Chairs, *continued*

on this planet. This is a walk we take together, in quiet, supportive conversation. This gentle reminder, supported by the fact that the goals of the campaign were spot on and commensurate with the needs of this congregation and the needs of the greater Branford community, was enough to assuage initial fears. The welcome that visitors received from the parishioners called on, quickly put issues to rest.



On the cover of our campaign brochure is an image of hands holding wooden hearts used in pastoral care. We asked if the hands are receiving or giving the hearts? The answer is both. Like

breathing, where inhaling and exhaling are parts of the same process to keep us conscious and vital, receiving and giving together vitalize the spirit. It is evident that this Parish took a deep breath and considered the gifts that we each have received as we each pledged our gifts to this campaign. Now it is important to hold onto that glimpse of these other ways we gift each other as a connected community, celebrating our differences, practicing the art of Christian fellowship, giving and taking, inhaling and exhaling, marking the tidal rhythms of lives as we walk along, together.

With deep gratitude and thanksgiving,

Cathy and John

From The Rector



It is no secret that the beloved buildings of Trinity Church have needed attention. Every time we gather for First Sunday Breakfast, we are reminded; the undercroft is dilapidated, the kitchen is no longer sufficient, and is not in compliance with safety and health regulations. Most troubling are the families who no

longer participate because getting down the stairs became an impediment. Now think of this, times 10, for all of the groups that use Trinity as the place for their ministries and activities. Clearly we needed to respond. Over the last two years, we have been inquiring, listening, dreaming and planning about what these spaces can be. And now we stand on the brink of a new chapter in the life of Trinity Church.

Cathy and John Seibyl are a dynamic duo if ever there were one! They combine deep faith, a long-standing relationship with Trinity and vast knowledge of the congregation, creativity and vision. Between the two of them, they have served in every imaginable capacity in this parish that they love so much. They began by naming the campaign ***A Legacy of Love***. Together they researched the history of Trinity and created a video and a website for the campaign. Their work put the task ahead in the perspective of history and the tradition of stewardship that is the hallmark of Trinity Church. They were the right choice, and we are blessed. We are forever grateful for their leadership.



The Compassionate Friends Chapter

Leader: "The Shoreline Chapter of The Compassionate Friends has been fortunate enough to be able to hold their monthly meeting at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Branford since January 2014. The meeting room at the church is warm and welcoming. Members feel comforted and safe enough to share their feelings. When we toured Trinity Episcopal Church, Rev. Gracen shared that her community felt blest to have our ministry in their church. We knew that we had found our home."

Campaign Details

Began March 24, ended May 12, 2018.
Just 6 weeks!

69 volunteers to help with mailings, telephone calls, hospitality, and the big one—visitors!

Goal: \$850,000.

Actual: \$1.3 million

83 households pledged

Also:

Bequests totaling \$86,000 were made.

In Memoriam pledges were made for:

William Calabrese

Bob Denhardt

Rachel Holohan

Gertrude & George Smith

Donations were made in honor of:

Cathy Seibyl

William Holohan



Maryann Doyle was a wise choice as our consultant. Widely recommended by churches all over CT, Maryann assessed the financial capacity of Trinity Church, and determined that we could raise between \$850,000 and \$1.5 million. She interviewed many people, more than she usually does, and felt confident of her number. She was right.

Maryann's fulltime presence at Trinity for the six-week campaign was tremendously helpful, as the ever-present guide, cheerleader, advisor, trainer, and more.

In Maryann's experience, Trinity saw the greatest attendance ever at the Resource Meeting!



What a celebration we had on Trinity Sunday!! We celebrated the end of the initial and very successful campaign, the beginning of the follow up to the campaign, and all that is Trinity!



The Renovation Steering Committee Continues to Make Progress

Working with our two architects and a small group from the parish, lots of progress has been made.

Bob Barnett, our in-house architect (front row, middle) volunteered to help steer the program. He has lots of experience in this field from his years at Princeton University managing building and restoration projects. We are blessed and grateful for his skill and dedication. Bob first led the search for an architect to complete a feasibility study on our buildings, with input from all who use it. The committee selected Terry Architecture, LLC.

Tony Terry, AIA, (standing back row), is a well-known, award winning, local architect with ties to and affection for Trinity Church. Tony has previously consulted as a friend on lighting and other endeavors. The results of the Architectural Feasibility Study (completed late 2016) gave us an inkling of what was possible to transform our space, including a long-hoped for elevator!



The Renovation Steering Committee from Trinity, was formed in early 2016, and is made up of *Left to right front row: Rev. Sharon, Bob Barnett, Marty Hallier, and*

l-r back row: Sandy Baldwin, Martha Monico, Tony Terry, Ann Freeman.

Missing from photo: Mike McGuinness.

Dave Demaio, President of Pat Munger Construction (far right) has been tapped as our Construction Manager. Munger Construction is a highly respected, 50 year old firm; and Dave has been the captain of that ship since 1992. We are also in the capable hands of Mike Kirdzak (left), who has the challenge to nail down the costs and help set the schedule.



Recap And Update

When the Architectural Feasibility Study was presented to the parish at the Annual Membership Meeting 2017, the project was broken down into three phases—the mitigation of the asbestos and water problems in the Undercroft, the renovation of that space and the kitchen, and the addition of the elevator, and, finally, an optional revision to the front of the Parish Hall, creating a new entry through the existing gothic window. As the normal course of these projects goes, things have changed. The Parish Hall entry is no longer part of the plan, and the mitigation and construction has become one continuous project. Design development work has focused on resolving accessibility (which proved to be extraordinarily difficult), compliance with all code issues, and checking the lists twice. Finalized drawings will be made available for everyone to see when they are ready.

From the Chair of the Renovation Steering Committee



**By Bob Barnett,
Chair**

The Renovation Steering Committee, working with architect Tony Terry and construction manager David Demaio, is moving forward with the next phase of design and cost estimating.

This phase will incorporate design changes involving the accessible entry and the columbarium, and will add a level of detail and precision to the drawings and the cost estimate. While the architect completes drawings suitable for construction, and the construction manager competitively bids the subcontracts, we plan to start construction on both the egress stair from the Parish Hall basement and the columbarium, this Fall. In order to start renovation of the Undercroft in January 2019, we plan to vacate the spaces by December. Rev. Sharon, Sandy and Jane are looking at Trinity's remaining community space to see how best to accommodate our current users, and are communicating with them about preparing to move out stored items.

Accessible Entry

Integral to the purpose of this restoration project is accessibility. The accessible entry will allow access from Town Hall Drive to the lobby between the church and Parish Hall and to the undercroft by means of a new elevator. To achieve full accessibility for all, a gently sloping ramp in place of the existing sidewalk, and a new landing within the building, will be constructed. The window wall and red doors, currently three steps below the lobby floor, will be reconfigured to allow for the new level entry. Additional landscaping and possibly a small terrace will complete the front lawn. Eventually, the ramp on the Montowese side of the church will be removed and the church returned to its original state.

Columbarium

Numerous people have long desired a columbarium, a set of niches for the interment of ashes. After numerous ideas and iterations, the Vestry has approved the location of a 92 niche columbarium in the narthex of the church. Modification to the space will enhance our entryway and provide a sacred space for the saints of Trinity to remain here forever. Information will be available in late July, after the services, about this decision.

After looking at a number of locations and designs for the proposed columbarium, the committee realized that the narthex (as one enters the church from the Green) offers many advantages.

First, it is within the worship space of the church, which is not only convenient for memorial and interment services, but has spiritual associations found in no other proposed location. Secondly, the existing stained glass windows on the exterior walls, and the back-lit ones on the nave wall, enhance the spiritual quality of the space. Thirdly, an interior location offers privacy, security, and minimal maintenance. The columbarium niches—approximately forty-six on each side—will be located in the right and left wings of the narthex. Custom-designed millwork and seating—using pews to be removed from the church for the installation of the piano—will help transform the vestibules into a sanctuary. Access from the front doors to the nave will be unimpeded.

Approval Process

Concept plans of the new accessible entry and columbarium were approved by the Vestry at the June 2018 meeting, and subsequently by the Town Center Review Board. A hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled for July 12. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

In July and August the construction manager will develop a detailed cost estimate to determine if we are on budget. If not, changes in scope or "value engineering" will be required.

Sunday Night 24 Hour Group of AA member:

"The Sunday Night 24 Hour Group of Alcoholics Anonymous has been meeting faithfully nearly every Sunday night in the undercroft at Trinity Church since June of 1949, the oldest continuously held meeting in Branford. Thousands of men and women and their families have seen their lives dramatically changed due to living the twelve steps of AA, and the Sunday night meeting at Trinity has been an invaluable part of that."

The Schedule

There are two pieces of this project that stand alone; the Columbarium, and the modification to the Bilco doors to the basement under the Parish Hall to create a code complying means of egress. These two projects are scheduled to take place this Fall.

The remaining work, the bulk of the renovation, will begin with asbestos and water mitigation in January of 2019. The entry to the foyer between the church and parish hall will be under construction from March through December 2019.

From the Treasurers



**John MacDonald,
Church Treasurer**

The initial campaign brought us a long way towards the total amount needed — but there is a gap. We are 4-6 weeks away from seeing final project costs, which had been previously estimated to be \$1.8. We have commitments of \$1.3, leaving a \$500,000 gap. There are ideas of possible funding sources, and converting those to strong probabilities, or not, is part of the current work. One of those sources is the Foote Family Charitable Trust, from which Trinity receives an annual grant as a beneficiary. The Foote Trustee is well aware of our project and need, and might ultimately be of significant help; but we have to proceed within their process and timeframe. We hope to know more by the end of the year.

The Follow Up Committee is doing just that, following up with other potential sources, including parishioners who have been away, others who asked for a re-visit in 2019, the public/friends, foundations, and even consideration of selling the lot contiguous to the rectory. This latter idea has a low probability at this point, but it remains on the list just in case.

We have begun a Summer of educating the Vestry about sources of income options, expenses, creating a cash flow plan, seeking out a cost-effective interim construction loan, and if we need to close a gap, finding an affordable permanent loan. It's important to understand where the greatest financial risk is. Ultimately, the Vestry must decide whether the project can proceed to conclusion and vote at either the August or September Vestry meeting.

Dancing with Parkinson's instructor: "The class at Trinity has attracted an enthusiastic and devoted following. When we began, we were not sure how well potential participants would be able to negotiate the stairs leading into Trinity's hall — but the meeting hall is so nice that we all agreed it would be worth a try. Indeed, there are at least three regular attendees who are partially chair-bound. For all three, their wheelchair or walker is wheeled to the foot of the stairs; they struggle to stand and work their way up the stairs. **A ramp and/or elevator would be an immensely marvelous help for these folks, especially—and also for the other attendees, all of whom are compromised in their movement!!!**"



**Ann Freeman,
Campaign Treasurer**

Pledge payments have started coming in. Stock and IRA contributions going directly to our Merrill Lynch account will be acknowledged to you by email so that you know transfers have occurred as intended. All other cash/check payments will be recorded on your statements as usual, along with your general operating pledge payments.

The tips below were provided during the campaign, and bear repeating.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

For those who wish to make a gift of securities or mutual funds, the following information will be helpful:

DO NOT instruct your banker or broker to sell the securities for your account and forward the proceeds to the church. This represents a cash transaction and you will be liable for capital gains tax.

If a banker or broker holds your securities, write a letter to the bank or broker stating:

"I wish to make a gift of (number) of shares of (kind and name of stock) to Trinity Episcopal Church, 1109 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405." Securities can be transferred to the church's account number **72Q-02033**, at Irwin-Celotto Group-Merrill Lynch, 71 Bradley Road, Madison, CT 06443. The DTC number for Irwin-Celotto Group is **8862**. An electronic transfer is preferred; if one is made, please reference the church account number **72Q-02033**. Our representative at Irwin-Celotto Group is Tricia Anderson, who can be reached at: 800-787-4668.

To be sure that your gift is properly credited, a copy of your letter should be sent to Assistant Treasurer Ann Freeman, in care of the church office at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1109 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405.

If you hold the securities, send your certificates by certified mail, **without any endorsement, assignment, or other notations**, to Irwin-Celotto Group-Merrill Lynch, 71 Bradley Road, Madison, CT 06443. The phone number is: 800-787-4668. **Enclose a letter** stating that the gift is intended for Trinity Episcopal Church, 1109 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405, and reference the church account number: **72Q-02033**. Please send a copy of this letter to the church.

From the Treasurers, *continued*

Then, **in a separate envelope**, send to the same address a stock power for each certificate, along with a copy of your letter. Do not complete any information on the stock power except your signature (exactly as your name appears on the certificate) and the date. Stock powers can be obtained at any commercial bank, or broker's office. An unsigned certificate is safe using this procedure, as it is only negotiable when joined with the stock power.

Mutual fund shares: The procedure for transferring shares is established by the mutual fund company. Please call Irwin-Celotto Group for fund-specific instructions.

Due to the fluctuation in price, we determine the actual value based on the date the stock is received in our account. We provide the high of the day and provide a letter to the member indicating that as the price and the total value.

The Benefits of Gifts of Appreciated Securities

It is helpful to keep in mind the advantages of making a gift of appreciated securities. If you have stock or mutual funds which are now worth more than what you paid for them, then consider giving them to the church. Normally when you sell stock which has gone up in value, you have to pay tax on the appreciation. This is not true if you give the stock to a charitable institution such as Trinity.

The IRS allows you to take a charitable deduction for the value of the stock on the date you give the stock to the church, without paying any taxes on the appreciation. On the other hand, if you sell the stock, then donate the proceeds, you pay tax on the difference between the original cost of the stock and the sale proceeds.

For example, consider a gift to Trinity Episcopal Church of \$20,000 to renovate our facilities. Church member donates stock purchased at \$12,000 and now worth \$20,000, to the church. Member receives tax deduction for a charitable contribution of \$20,000. Member pays no tax on the \$8,000 appreciation of the stock (\$3,200 at 40% tax rate).

If you have a number of shares, purchased a different times, and you want to make a gift of a portion of those shares, be sure to choose those shares with the lowest purchase price (or basis, in IRS jargon). In this way, if you sell the remaining shares for your own use, you will minimize your capital gains tax.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving opportunities that can help Trinity, while at the same time providing significant tax benefits to you, please discuss the possibilities with your accountant, estate planner, or financial advisor. There are a number of opportunities that may be more beneficial than you think.

Submission deadlines vary, approximately every 6 weeks. Please e-mail 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.

Messenger Contributors

Features Rev. Sharon, Ann Freeman,

Design Ann Freeman

Copy Editor Bill Baskin

Photos Peter Otis, unless stated

Copy/Fold/Mail Jane Dougherty



Trinity Leadership

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Rector: | The Rev. Sharon Gracen |
| Senior Warden: | Sandy Baldwin |
| Junior Warden: | Deb Bradley |
| Parish Clerk: | Bobbe Otis |
| Treasurer: | John MacDonald |
| Ass't Treasurer: | Ann Freeman |

Vestry

Janet Daley, Brenda Feniola, Patrick Freeman,
Bill Holohan, Rich Marsan, Beth Mishler,
Peter Otis, Stacie Russell, Celia Toche

Staff

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Parish Administrator: | Jane Dougherty |
| Sexton: | Nancy Williams |



**Trinity Episcopal Church
1109 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405**

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

Parish Office 203-488-2681

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 (not summer)**

**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

The Community We Serve

Branford Early Childhood Collaborative Executive Director:

"Moving the operation into a faith-based location provided immediate benefits. It allowed our purpose in serving families and children to noticeably shift, almost spiritually. Who we were serving and why we were serving became the central focus of the organization, and we were supported in that every day.

"Trinity Church, Reverend Gracen and the Vestry have provided the organization with not only daily office space, but additional meeting space for a 10-week business series, a room for our Board of Directors meetings, and a much-needed location for important community events. Trinity Church of Branford turns no one away, and we are proud to be associated with them. "