



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

September 2011



Remembrance and Hope

On September 11, 2001, people flocked to churches to try to make sense of what had happened that morning in lower Manhattan. They also came for the comfort that only sacred space can offer. When our world is shaken or torn, we seek a glimpse of a greater order and purpose to life when nothing makes sense. Churches around the world provided that, each according to its tradition. Hymns were sung, psalms recited and prayers prayed. Space was left for silent tears. The most important thing was that we came together, wherever we were around the globe and held onto one another. From that came our strength, knowing that the path through grief and despair would not be walked alone.

In the ten years since that day, much has changed in the world. Wars have been fought, international relations seen through the lens of 9/11. As much as that day brought us

together, it also caused deep divisions. There is no *one* way to remember. It is fitting on the tenth anniversary that people return to the churches and reflect. There is still wisdom and comfort to be sought on hallowed ground.



(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Worship Ministry	2
Administration	3
Outreach Ministry	4
Christian Ed Ministry	5
Parish Life Ministry	5
Annual Fair Update	6
Saint of the Month	7

From the Rector



How quickly this year has gone! This time last year there were still boxes in the Rectory, Peter and I were just finding our way around

Branford, and every face was new. We give thanks for the welcome that we received and for the work that was put before us.

At the Mutual Ministry Review in August, we revisited the goals that had been identified for this new period of Trinity's history. They were bold goals! Over the past year, so many members of this congregation have stepped forward to take on pieces of the vision and helped to create a new way of being Trinity Church on the Branford Green. That has been so exciting. Equally exciting is the number of new people who have made Trinity their spiritual home and have often dived into projects and classes and new friendships.

(Continued on page 2)

Remembrance & Hope continued

(Continued from page 1)

People came to Trinity in 2001 that evening and they will be invited back this year as the work of healing and reconciliation continues. In the best Anglican tradition, Trinity will offer a choral evensong at 6:00 PM in which we will remember those who died, those who have died since, and give voice to our hope for a better, more peaceful world. We will remember especially **Lindsay Morehouse**, beloved daughter of **Kathleen and Dale Maycen**, who was a part of this community. The carillon given by her family in her memory will ring out our prayers and our hope.

Worship Ministry

Choral Evensong—An Anglican Treasure

There are few better ways to end a day than in the peace of a darkened church surrounded by the lovely harmony of the choir and the comfort of the lyrics of familiar hymns. "The day thou gavest Lord, is ended, the darkness fall at thy behest..." Evening Prayer, set to music, is an underused part of our worship life.



The service begins with the small dialogue of "Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God." A short verse of scripture is read and then as the candles are lighted, the *Phoshilaron*, an ancient hymn to the

light, is sung. And now by candlelight, psalms, reading and sometimes a homily follow. More music comes in some of the lovely canticles, the *Magnificat*, or *The Song of Simeon*, followed by the Apostles Creed and Prayers. A final blessing completes the celebration of the day that has just passed.

Come to Trinity on **Sunday, September 11th, at 6:00 pm** and find peace within Evensong. We will be singing a hymn from **Lindsay Morehouse's** days at Greenwich Country Day School as a part of our remembering.

Continued on page 3

From the Rector continued

A clergy colleague made an observation that has helped me a great deal. He said, "We all tend to overestimate what we can accomplish in one year and we completely underestimate what we can accomplish in five!" The goals set by Trinity Church are indeed big goals. The work that God has for us is even bigger. It will unfold through the relationships that we build here and our confidence that we are God's hands in the work of creating the kingdom here on earth. Thank you for a wonderful year. Here's to the next one!

Peace, *Sharon+*

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15th of the current month. Please submit hard copy to the office or e-mail 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.

Communication Ministry Contributors

<i>Features</i>	Rev. Sharon, Ann Freeman , Jim Atkinson
<i>Editor</i>	Jo-Ann Pearson
<i>Layout</i>	Ann Freeman
<i>Copy/Fold/Mail</i>	Ruth Buell, Dru Dodd, Jane Dougherty, Bill Gilpatrick, Mary McCarthy, Judy Nelson, Roberta Rowe, Lynn Aspland

Trinity Officers

Mark McElrath, Senior Warden
 Kris Lockwood, Junior Warden
 Regis Conlon, Treasurer
 Roz Jones, Clerk of the Parish

Worship Ministry continued

(Continued from page 2)

It is to the tune called *Jerusalem*, by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918). Here are the lyrics we will sing, by Carl Daw.

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,

Guide us to the justice, truth and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,

Till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small,

As beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;

The hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Administration

A Program Church – What's in it for you?

Following the short, verbal report at worship on the Mutual Ministry Review meeting held August 20th, people asked about terminology that was used: "What's a Program Church?" One of the primary concerns of the Search Committee was to find a rector who could help the congregation complete the transition from a Pastoral to a Program style church. So what does that mean? Here are general traits of the two styles of congregations.

Pastoral Size

- Size 50-150 on a Sunday
- Rector is at the center of everything (initiates, drives and approves all activities).

- Personality of rector is primary for growth.
- High expectations for close relationship between rector and each member
- As a church approaches 150 people on a Sunday, it is too big a job for one person.

Program Size

- Size 150-350 on a Sunday
- Lay leadership is responsible for most programs.
- Quality of programs is primary for growth.
- Role of rector changes to planning, recruiting, training, evaluating and coordinating (along with usual pastoral care and preaching responsibilities).
- Relationships of people within ministry groups are critical.
- Rector works to build consensus.

The biggest difference between these two types of congregations is one of *empowerment and authority*. In the smaller Pastoral style congregation, the rector is the primary authority. In a Program style congregation, the laity is empowered for ministry and has authority to make decisions, spend their budgets and follow through, all with the support of the rector.

At Trinity this change has been implemented by the creation of The Council of Ministries, ten different areas of ministry and programs within the life of the congregation. They are: Worship Ministry, Spirituality Ministry, Outreach Ministry, Education Ministry, Stewardship Ministry, Parish Life Ministry, Communications Ministry, Finance Ministry, Building & Grounds Ministry, and Administration.

What this means for the congregation of Trinity is that it is truly a church of the people, in which your voice matters and has power. There is a structure for decision-making that includes much more than just the clergy and the wardens. It also means that there are more opportunities for ministry, giving to the community and learning about what it means to be a follower of Christ. All that is needed is for you to take advantage of the opportunities, pay attention to all of the information that is communicated, ask questions when you have questions, and take part in God's mission as it unfolds here at Trinity.

Outreach Ministry



Trinity, reaching out and changing lives through Micro-lending

In the 1970s micro-financing and community banking for the very poorest people in Bangladesh started a movement that helped to lift many people out of poverty. Since that time, it has spread throughout the world. In spite of some of the rough spots on the road, (i.e., recent problems with some banks and programs) micro-credit remains an exciting opportunity for people in need of credit. The repayment rate of micro-loans is above 95%.

Recently, several on-line organizations help connect those looking for credit with those willing to lend. People seeking loans are vetted and work with a local organization. Kiva is one such on-line matchmaker, visit **www.kiva.org**. Since its founding in 2005, Kiva has been the conduit for over 600,000 loans, totaling \$235 million, with a repayment rate above 98%.

The Outreach Ministry has researched the micro-credit possibilities and has decided that Kiva is a good way to reach out and make a difference. Their plan is to make two loans initially—one international and one domestic—and, hopefully, to be in touch with entrepreneurs. It will make for a wonderful story for us to follow. And on top of it, the money will be paid back with interest! And then we can help someone else. **Steve Sharma** is the point person on the Kiva initiative.

SCOUTING at TRINITY

By Gina Freeman



"As a Venturer, I promise to do my duty to God and help strengthen America, to help others, and to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world."

These are the words of the Venturing oath. Venturing is the newest and most exciting group in the scouting world. It is a co-ed scouting program available to young adults from the age of 14 (who have graduated 8th grade) to 21. Prior scouting experience is not necessary. If you belong to another scouting organization,

you can still become a part of this group.

The focus of this program is leadership and challenging outdoor adventure. We have a brand new crew here at Trinity, Crew 424. We are excited to become a part of the long scouting tradition at Trinity.

Presently we have seven girls that belong to a Girl Scout troop that have spearheaded this new organization. They plan to continue with the troop, but want to spread their wings in new directions. The girls are inviting their friends to join, both girls and boys. The Venturing Crew joins the thriving Cub Scout pack 424, and the soon-to-be launched Boy Scout troop 424 at Trinity Church.

If you would like to find out more about our crew, please complete the form at:
<http://crew424branford.ScoutLander.com/>

The Venturing Crew 424 would like to thank Trinity Church for its continued support of scouting and the young people in our community.



**Three of the members
(and a wannabe)**

Get your 104th Trinity Fair schedule at

www.trinitybranford.org/news

Christian Education Ministry

Godly Play is gearing up for the fall with all of those great stories and some new faces. Sunday School begins on September 18th. Joining as new teachers are **Loretta Merlone** and **Cynthia Lindsay**. **Maureen McGuinness** will also help out occasionally as an assistant teacher. Teenagers are also needed as doorkeepers. If you are interested in participating in this wonderful ministry, please contact **Cathy Seibyl** at cathy.seibyl@snet.net.

Education for All Ages is an experiment for this year. One Sunday evening a month, we will gather for dinner and discussion that will be presented at the children, youth, and adult levels. This is still a work in progress, so we are looking for your ideas about topics that interest you. Contact **Martha Monico** at edmarthamonico@yahoo.com or Rev. Sharon.

Parish Life Ministry

Thank you!! Thank you!! To all who attended the town summer concerts on-the-green, offering water, selling raffle tickets, and giving church tours.



Parish Life Ministry

Welcome to Trinity!

Janet Constantino



Hi, I began worshipping at Trinity in May of this year. I felt very welcomed at Trinity Church that first Sunday and realize that this is where I want to continue to worship. I was born Roman Catholic and lived as a Franciscan Nun for 32 years,

so I guess that makes me 150% Roman Catholic. I was born and raised in Quincy, MA. I went to graduate school at Yale and a job offer has kept me in CT. I currently live in East Haven, near Long Island Sound, and morning beach walks with my dogs is a great beginning to my day.

Professionally, I am a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Mental Health. I have received recognition for my work, including: *Georgia Rural Health Award*, given for initiating a collaborative health providers group to improve the health care of people living in rural Georgia; *Women in Leadership Award*, given at Yale School of Nursing for outstanding leadership in health care; and *Safe Passage Award*, given by the CT Coalition to Improve End-of-Life Care, for excellence in clinical end-of-life care.

Currently I am on the Board of Directors of Global Health Ministry, and have been doing volunteer work with them for several years. Volunteering has taken me to Peru, Brazil, Jamaica, Bolivia and the mountains of Haiti, to offer health care to the people living there.

Thank you all for your welcoming "spirit." I am very grateful to you.

Trinity Book Group

It's time to launch our sixth season of the Trinity Book Group. Our first gathering is Wednesday, September 7th, at 7:00 pm in the Guild Room. During this first gathering, we make our book selections for the upcoming year. For those of you interested in participating, the Trinity Book Group meets once a month October through June with the month of January off. Whether you are an avid reader or an occasional "page turner", matters not. Come join us. For more details, call **Alison Barbaro** at (203) 605-6692 or e-mail alisonbarbaro@comcast.net.

Parish Life Ministry continued

First Sunday Breakfast

First Sunday Breakfast starts on October 2. Details will be announced in the Sunday bulletins and the next issue of *Messenger*.

The Tale of Trinity's Tag Sale

It all started when Pat Kelly-White contacted Trinity's tag sale chair Dottie Packer, and asked her whether she would take a secretary desk that was really old, her husband detested, and had to go. Dottie had a friend who just moved and used Craig's List online to sell some furniture. Dottie made the connection and thought she'd give it a go. The secretary desk sold for \$100! You know the expression 'one thing leads to another'....well, to date



It started here ...



Dottie has sold \$1,400 worth of small furniture pieces, sports equipment and asundry items donated by parishioners and others. This activity is proving so successful—and Dottie is having so much fun—she has decided to continue selling online until November 1st. These pre and post September 10th sales will clearly significantly increase income from the tag sale.

Other items Dottie has sold are: a ping pong table, the Nordic Track that was left in the undercroft for the last 3 years, and an oak table and chairs. Dottie does all the work. She takes care of the listing, takes a photograph of the item, handles the anonymous email, and can either have the prospective buyer view the item at your house or hers. She has a crew to help move items to her garage—the youngest two are in their 60's, a 70+ year old friend with a van and an 80+ year old friend with a pickup truck! Crews don't come any better than that!

Got a little bigger ...



Ta dah! So long garage space!



If you have items that you think will sell on Craig's List, contact Dottie. If you or your neighbors are having a tag sale and there are items left over, contact Dottie. She has reached out to people holding tag sales and let them know they could donate to the church what they can't sell. Dottie sorts the items for what can best be sold on Craig's List or at the Fair. She's quite the entrepreneur and is doing a fabulous job (in retirement!). Way to go, Dottie!

Remember, all sales end by **November 1st**. Dottie has to reclaim her garage for her car!



Trinity Fair details, including a Schedule of Events, are available on the website:

www.trinitybranford.org/news

In Memoriam

Raymond Dion, Kim Humphrey's father

Carole, sister of Roz Jones

Kyle, son of Ted Paluha

May their souls and those of all the departed rest in peace.

Saint of the Month

Background

The Episcopal Church publishes *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, containing feast days for various men and women the Church wishes to honor for their commitment to Christ and their witness to their faith. Such witnesses, by the grace of God, live in every age.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen and Mystic

Hildegard of Bingen, born in the Rhineland Valley, Germany, was a mystic, poet, composer, dramatist, doctor, and scientist. The tenth child of a noble family, she was tithed to the church—not an unusual practice at this time—and raised by the anchoress Jutta in a cottage near the Benedictine monastery of Disibodenberg.



Drawn by the Benedictine life of silence and prayer, other women joined them, finding the rare freedom to develop their intellectual gifts. They organized a convent under the authority of the abbot of Disibodenberg, with Jutta as abbess. When she died, the 38-year-old Hildegard became abbess. Later she founded independent convents at Bingen (1150) and Eibingen (1165), with the Archbishop of Mainz as her only superior.

From childhood, Hildegard experienced dazzling spiritual visions. At 43, a voice commanded her to tell what she saw. So began an outpouring of extraordinary original writings illustrated by wondrous illuminations. These works abound with feminine imagery for God and God's creative activity.

In 1147, Bernard of Clairvaux recommended her first book of visions, *Scivias*, to Pope Eugenius III, leading to papal authentication at the Synod of Trier. Hildegard became famous, eagerly sought for counsel, a correspondent of royalty, abbots and abbesses, archbishops and popes.

In a world still emerging from medieval chaos, Hildegard carried out four preaching missions in northern Europe, unprecedented activity for a woman. She practiced medicine, focusing on women's needs; published treatises on natural science and philosophy; wrote a liturgical drama *The Play of the Virtues*, in which personified virtues sing their parts and the devil, condemned to live without music, can only speak. To Hildegard, music was essential to worship. Her liturgical compositions were described as "chant of surpassing sweet melody" and "strange and unheard-of music."

Hildegard lived in a world of male governance. Yet within her convents and to a surprising extent in her public ministry outside them, she exercised a commanding spiritual authority based on her visions and considerable political astuteness. When she died in 1179 at 81, she left a rich legacy that speaks eloquently across the ages.

A Prayer

God of all times and seasons: Give us grace that we, after the example of your servant Hildegard, may both know and make known the joy and jubilation of being part of your creation, and show forth your glory not only with our lips but in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Why (Some of) Our Church Doors are Red

from the Episcopal Handbook

Some call it tradition, others think it's just a snappy looking color. But the deeper reason belongs to our firm belief that Episcopal churches are refuges.

Like many churches, Episcopal parishes use red to let the world know what we're about. Red is the color of Christ's blood. It is the symbol of the sacrifice of the martyrs. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit. And it marks the holy ground that lies just beyond its doors. We like to think that red tells the world we're a safe place. We're a peaceful place. We're a place of refuge.

Historically, churches painted their doors red to signal fleeing suspects that they were places of asylum. We like to advertise that we are a place of healing and restoration. At our best, our parishes help the wounded put their lives back together, provide comfort in time of need, and are open to all who knock.

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 BCTV
and AT&T Channel 99
7:00 PM Sundays

Wednesday

12:10 PM Eucharist & Healing
Service, Guild Room

Trinity Church "Messenger" (USPC 611040) published by Trinity
Episcopal Church, 1109 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405.

Second Class Postage Paid at Branford CT.

Send address changes to above address.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2011, Special Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Table of Chairs resched to Sept 1 @ 7.	1 Last day of book dona- tions for Fair	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7 Trinity Book Group 7 pm	8	9 Fair set up. Everyone needed!	10 104th Annual Fair
11 Evensong 6:00 pm; Grandparents Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday School Starts	19		20	21 Peace Day	22	23 Autumnal Equinox
24	25	26	27	28	29	30