



# Messenger

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Summer 2013



(c) Peter Otis

### The Trinity Fair—Stewardship and Lots of Fun!

For 106 years, the Trinity community has held a fair for several reasons. It has always been a fund raiser, a significant contribution to the budget. It has also been a community builder. Every year, traditional things are renewed and new things happen. Friendships are forged flipping pancakes, tending an auction, watching kids play in the bubbles.

There is also an element of stewardship in the fair, beyond the boost for the budget. Stewardship is a way of life, an approach to how we do things. The Fair calls us to practice the giving of our time and talents. As we share the spirit of joy with the larger community, we are being stewards of our mission. As we

take part in the fair, whether working or simply enjoying, we are being good stewards of our relationships with each other.



The fair is a project of this congregation; and as such, we are responsible to each other that no one is over worked, no one's contribution is overlooked.

We, as a congregation of faith, are strengthened when we

support each other, the activities of the church, and our mission to be the church for the world. What better way to do that than to be the church out on the Green on a Saturday in September!

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### From The Rector

Dear Trinity Family,



Juno the Church Dog is settling in nicely. Peter and I are enjoying watching her become more confident and joyous every day.

Her story is a heartbreaker. Sometime around her 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, she was abandoned. This is apparently a fairly common occurrence in states to the south of us. A good Samaritan saw her on I-10 outside of Houston, TX, and coaxed her into the car. She was delivered to a vet in Louisiana who discovered that she had heartworms and kennel cough. It took many weeks for her to return to health. By then, she had been brought into the American

Lab Rescue organization, and was placed in a foster home. There were lots of other dogs and room to run.

Juno, like so many dogs from the south, was scheduled for transport to New England, where

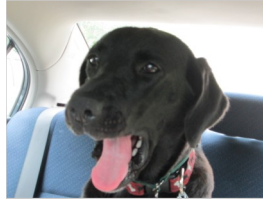
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Spirituality Ministry

### FROM THE RECTOR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

there are many people interested in adopting them. We were able to meet Juno on the day she arrived in Connecticut, and brought her home two days later.

In the weeks since then, we have observed her anxiety when out taking walks – as if she is hyper-vigilant, in survival mode. We stop often, giving her the hugs that seem to calm her and remind her that she is safe. Knowing her story makes me sad and mad at the same time. I imagine how confused and frightened she was. How could someone throw away such a lovely creature? This is a stewardship issue. It is an ethical issue



about how we think of and treat other parts of creation, whether our pets, fellow inhabitants of the planet, or the waters of the oceans.

In Juno's case, she and we are the beneficiaries of someone else's cavalier approach to relationship. Adopting abandoned dogs will not save the planet, but considering her story as a metaphor might make us a bit more careful.

Peace,

*Sharon+*

## Spirituality Ministry

### HEALTH MINISTRY

BY JANET CONSTANTINO



The first meeting to explore the possibility of a Health Ministry at Trinity was held on

June 30. Present at the meeting were: Martha and Ed Monico, Cheryl Hyder, Cathy Seibyl, Kathy Costanzo, Kathleen and Tren Meyers, Elizabeth Melvin, Rev. Sharon and myself.

We had some good sharing and discussion; and all agree a Health Ministry at Trinity could be very helpful to the Trinity community. So we want to explore the idea with you. Our next step is to devise a questionnaire for your feedback to help us develop what a Health Ministry would look like at Trinity.

Your input is invaluable so be thinking "What would I want assistance with, as I strive to stay healthy and whole, balancing body, mind and spirit?"

Submission deadline for the following *Messenger* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month. Please e-mail to **ajfree-man@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.

### Messenger Contributors

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A color issue is on [trinitybranford.org/news](http://trinitybranford.org/news)

### 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: Jane Dougherty

Sexton: Nancy Williams

## Worship Ministry



**SANDY BALDWIN**  
CHAIR

### CARRYING THE CROSS

That's what our acolytes do for us. They are servants of the cross and the altar. It is a ministry with a long tradition. From the early centuries of the church, acolytes have assisted with processions and the ministry around the altar. At Trinity, we have been blessed with a fine tradition and dedicated young people who serve. This year, three of our stalwarts have retired from the ranks: Patrick Monico and Sarah and Mark Williams. We thank them.

There are new acolytes ready to fill their shoes:

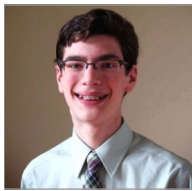
Alex Freeman



Julius Feniola



Gabe Simerson



The torch is passed; and we celebrate the way the Holy Spirit continues to raise up new servants of the cross.

## Communications Ministry



**ANN FREEMAN, CHAIR**

A warm welcome to Kathy Sanchez, who is helping both the archivists and the communication ministry, by tackling archival of online documents and photos. Thank you, Kathy!

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We hope you are enjoying the directory. We learned the email from the directory company did not reach a few people; we did a detailed review of the distribution list, and believe it's just those few. That email contains your personal username and password with which to access the directory. Please contact the office if you need help.

## Christian Education Ministry



**MARTHA MONICO**  
CHAIR

### CLASS ON THE GRASS

Summer Sunday school continues to August 25, during the 10:00 AM service. It is outside on the lawn, weather permitting! All children, ages 3-11, are welcome to attend. Some of our youth in the middle and high school will help the teachers. Our theme this year will center on connecting to the peace within. The children will be learning about meditation, and how to deal with anger and frustration. They will hear stories from other cultures, and create a peace quilt.

### BOOKS AND ACTIVITY BAGS

We have several Holy Eucharist children's books, specifically with Trinity culture, on the book case in the back of the church, for any youth who want to follow along with the service.



Also, activity bags can be found under the Children's Altar at the front right hand pews. Both books and bags are not for sale or to take home. Please return these items to their storage homes at the end of the service, for use the next time you attend church. Happy Summer!!

### TRINITY-WIDE BOOK READ AND DISCUSSION

**Adult Forum, October 20, 2013** Save the date!

*Christianity After Religion (The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening)*, by Diana Butler-Bass. We would like to have a parish-wide discussion of the book listed above. Trinity's Vestry and Council of Ministry leaders have been reading this book, since Rev. Sharon heard the author speak in California. You may borrow a book from any Vestry member or Council of Ministry member, order the book on Amazon, or ask Rev. Sharon how to get a copy. Adult Forums are held at 9:00 AM, between the services, the third Sunday of the month.

About Diana Butler-Bass. She is the author of eight books. She contends that we are at the end of a sea change in religious Christianity which has been going on since the 1970s. Historians have mapped the *Three Great Awakenings* in American history where old patterns and beliefs were set aside for new forms and vitality. Bass is convinced that the Fourth Great Awakening is underway and as a result there is a great deal of doubt and discontent afoot in the culture and in churches.



## Parish Life Ministry



**PETER H. HAYES**  
**CHAIR**

### TRINITY IN TRANSITION

Congratulations to our graduates! Julius Feniola and Adam Humphrey, from Branford High School; Maggie Ball and Tia Torella, from Nursing School, and Shelby McElrath, from college.

Congratulations to our new retirees! Sandy Baldwin, Ann Freeman, Peter and Bobbe Otis, and Bob White. We wish you many happy and healthy years ahead.

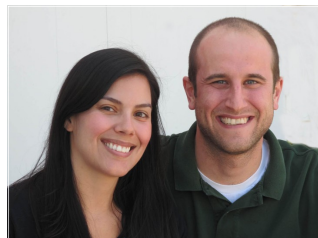
Congratulations to our new brides and grooms: Matt Goodwin and Tia Torello, Matt Williams and Tori Chick, and the third was a tad unusual. Before the planned ceremony at Trinity could happen, the couple were involved in a motorcycle accident, and the groom-to-be ended up in the intensive care unit. Rev. Sharon responded to an urgent call to perform a bedside marriage at Bridgeport Hospital. The nursing staff decorated the cubicle with prettily knotted sheets! Quite chic! Nice going, Rev. Sharon! (and the groom is recovering)

Our condolences go to Patricia Barbis, on the loss of her husband George, and Pam Bold who lost her brother, Marvin Bold. May their souls, and those of all the departed, rest in peace. Amen.

### FIRST FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT - A FABULOUS, FRESH IDEA!

Kelley and Richard Esposito, working parents of active three year-old Mia, have a wonderful idea: host a family pasta dinner at Trinity on the first Friday of each month, at 5:30 PM. Make it a chance for parents to get together, have a meal, with activities for the kids and a discussion group for the parents with varying topics. At the first gather in in July, the topic was literacy and family engagement in education. These dinners are open to families at Trinity and in the Branford community. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come. Mark your calendar for **August 2**, now! Hope to see you there!

### NEWCOMER MINISTRY



We are grateful to Neil and Sara Anglemire, who are putting their fresh ideas and energy into a newcomers program. Look for further information to come later in the year.

*Continued on page 5*

## Outreach Ministry



**JANET CONSTANTINO,**  
**CHAIR**

Outreach has been involved in a new venture in New Haven. *Your Place* is a project out of St. Andrews Episcopal Church. The mission of *Your Place* is to provide a safe gathering place for youth to keep them off the streets and away from gang activity. Besides our financial help, some Outreach members plan to go and offer some volunteer hours.

Outreach in the future wants to provide opportunities for the Trinity community to become actively involved in our Outreach projects. Money is so important and helpful, but first hand experiences and sharing with our brothers and sisters in need is priceless. We hope in the fall to have a list of projects and opportunities for volunteer experiences for those in the Trinity community who want to see up close and personal where your money is going,

We are planning for the Trinity Fair...please visit our table!

Our next meeting on our summer schedule is **July 28** in the Guild Room at 11:30 AM. Please join us, and bring your ideas.

### BRANFORD CARES - A GREAT TRINITY KICKOFF!

Trinity made a strong start at the Branford Festival, which marks the kickoff for the summer fund raising campaign for *Branford Cares*.

Cathy & Jen Seibyl, and enthusiastic volunteers all under three feet tall, raised over \$130 selling cool lemonade;



## Parish Life Ministry *continued*



### DOTTIE PACKER, FAIR COORDINATOR

Stepping into a 105 year-old-tradition as a first-time Fair Coordinator has me wondering how I got here! I'm excited to be doing this for Trinity; and I hope many parishioners will join me to make the Fair the fundraising success Trinity needs it to be. Not only do the funds help support programs, but a portion goes towards the work of the Outreach Ministry. How can you help? Donate, buy, volunteer your time, and/or attend (all active verbs!)

It is a-go for **Saturday, September 7!** Mark Friday, September 6 also, after 4:00 PM, to help with setup. We have fun while we work; and of course, we feed the workers!

### SOMETHINGS OLD—AND EXCELLENT!

#### Silent Auction Peggy Esposito, Coordinator

2012 was a great success; and this year we are working hard to make it even better. We would like to offer items that were popular in previous years, as well as new and exciting gifts. I hope you can donate something from our 2013 Wish List! Or maybe you have an idea of your own you would like to contribute? All contributions welcome! The list is endless!! Let's make 2013 the best Silent Auction yet!



- Theatre tickets
- Use of your vacation home or time share
- iPad
- iPhone BBQ (cooking thermometer)
- Kindle Fire
- Nook
- Kuerig Coffee Maker
- Soda Stream
- iRobot Vacuum
- Wine, Wine & Wine
- Wine or Beer of the Month club membership

- Gift Baskets: golf ~ ice cream ~ baking ~ basket for men ~ movie night ~ baby baskets ~ to name a few....
- Fine Chocolates
- Cooking Classes
- Sleigh Ride
- Doll Houses
- Gift Certificate for a live Christmas tree
- Your ideas

### TAG SALE - WITH A TWIST

Trinity has a large number of premium tag sale items, filling the small room in the Undercroft. To make room for your donations for the Fair, we will host a pre-Fair tag sale in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, July 27**, between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Come early or somebody else will buy the best items! Bring a friend, family members or neighbor!

Beginning **August 1**, please bring your small, good quality items to the Undercroft—the small room on the left just before the tunnel—to ensure the tag sale tables are full on September 7.

What we cannot accept: computers, televisions, electronic appliances, books, anything damaged, clothing or personal items. Larger items that require a pickup, please email for assistance: [tagsale@trinitybranford.org](mailto:tagsale@trinitybranford.org).

### BUY QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS!

It's another beauty! Each year a gorgeous quilt is lovingly handmade by *The Tuesday Night Quilters*. Each is completely different from previous years, yet equally stunning. This one is called *Love Song*. The tickets are \$2.00 each, Tickets are sold after each Sunday service, on the



church steps at the Thursday night Jazz Concerts, and in the office. (see Behind The Scenes story, pg 7)

### BAKE SALE TABLE

#### Chris Baird & Sue Rowan, Coordinators

Trinity's homemade baked goods are famous and in demand! Once sales start, it doesn't take long for the baked goods table to start looking bare. As in previous years, we trust our faithful bakers will bake their favorites; and we encourage new bakers to donate something delicious. Pies, cookies, cakes, sweet breads, breads, homemade jams, fresh produce from the garden - everything goes! You may drop off your donation at the Parish Hall on Friday afternoon/evening, or by 8:00 AM Saturday morning. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Also, to volunteer your time to help at the table, please contact either Chris or Sue.

### SOMETHINGS NEW ...

Everybody needs munchies at a Fair! Ooh, kettle corn! Everybody feels thirsty too! Ooh, Italian ice! There will be both - enjoy!

(Continued on page 6)



## Outreach *continued*

### BRANFORD CARES *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5*

Many thanks to parishioners who made delicious homemade baked goods, helping the bake sale table make over \$400.



A note from Mitch Rucinski, Crew Chief:

I am very pleased to inform everyone that we raised a total of \$1,450 from this years' lobster dinner. I received many compliments which are owed to the entire crew who did an outstanding job, and who make it a truly wonderful experience. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents, as well as those who attended the dinner.



*The Crew, left to right, front: Peter and Rod Hayes, Jim Atkinson  
Mid row: Jeff Rowan, Terry Kron, Lisa Davis-Rucinski, Maureen McGuinness, Janet Constantino, Sandy Baldwin  
Back row: Mitch Rucinski, Mike McGuinness*

Also at the Branford Festival, did you notice how brisk the Fair quilt raffle ticket sales were on the Church steps? Thanks to all who took shifts in the hot sun!

## The Fair *continued*

*(Continued from page 5)*

### A Labyrinth and then some ...

Walking a labyrinth is prayer in motion. Building one out of cans of food is generosity with two purposes. First, it collects food for the Branford Food Pantry, which will help many families. Second, it raises awareness of such need.



St. James Episcopal Church in Jackson, MS, came up with this creative take on the ancient labyrinth. Trinity is one of several churches to like the idea so much that we are trying it too. Thank you to our sisters and brothers in Mississippi. We will build and walk the labyrinth proudly! It takes a LOT of cans to build a labyrinth, so please remember to bring cans of food to church on Sundays, or drop them off in the office during the week.

### MORE FUN ...

Child and child/adult friendly games and activities are great fun! The kind of games kids play at field day, but more fun when played with adults whom they can out run! Is there a coordinator amongst us? How about assistants with great ideas? Please contact Dottie if you could organize a few simple games.

### Contact a Coordinator to Volunteer

Labyrinth of Canned Foods	Bob Barnett
Crafts	Nancy Williams
Silent Auction	Peggy Esposito
Tag Sale	MaryAnn Allen
Breakfast	Mitch Rucinski
Lunch	Peter Hayes
Jewelry	Lisa Davis-Rucinski
Bake Sale	Chris Baird/Sue Rowan
Outreach	Janet Constantino
Quilt table	Pam Bold
Quilt/raffle	Jane/Church office
Music	Bill Bray
Peach Shortcake & more ...	Betsey Bray/Nancy Collins



## The Fair *continued*

### BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE TUESDAY NIGHT QUILTERS

*Each year we go behind-the-scenes to learn about what it takes a particular group to prepare for The Fair.*

*The Tuesday Night Quilters* are a group of 15 women who share a common love of quilting. Every year, for five to six months, they gather together to produce a stunning quilt, which is raffled off at the Fair. Fabric selection is a group effort during a shopping expedition in January. Late in January is the annual road trip to VT for the weekend, which is when the top of the quilt is made. Quilting begins the first Tuesday in February, and continues every Tuesday evening through the end of May or early June. At least 7-9 of the members gather weekly to hand sew the Queen-size quilt.



*Left to right front & mid row: Sue Atkinson, Pam Bold, Chris Baird, Ruth Knowlton, Jane Dougherty, Nancy Olson, Ann Collier Left to right back row: Cindy Lewis, Donna Robinson, Lois Lehr, Carol Brunt Missing from photo: Cathy Seibyl, Peg Slubowski, Glee Miner, Dru Dodd*

The pattern selection is based on high visual impact (from across the Green, it sells more tickets!) and ease of assembly of the top, which is assembled by multiple sewers. *Love Song* is the name of this year's pattern. The quilt is donated.

### A BIT OF HISTORY

The group has its roots in the *Trifolium Sewing Group* of Trinity Church, who were active from the late 1960's to around 2002. Trifolium ladies produced a quilt for raffling at Trinity Church's annual Fair, and made other items to sell. When it was no longer possible for the aging Trifolium women to produce the quilt, another group of women at Trinity who were quilters, began to make and donate the Fair quilt. Originally known as the *Trinity Quilters*, they are now *The Tuesday Night Quilters*, since membership has evolved beyond Trinity and Branford. They have supported various charitable pillowcase drives for people affected by tragedy, made dresses for

## Outreach *continued*

*Dress A Girl Around the World*, memorial quilts by private request, and support the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

New members are always welcome. The group meets on Tuesday evenings at various member homes, when actively quilting. Just express your interest to any quilter.

### FAIR MEETING

Coordinators and volunteers, please come to one of two Fair meetings on **August 4**, either immediately following the 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM service. We meet in the Guild Room. Thank you!

### OUTREACH—SPREADING HAPPINESS IN HAITI

The donation from Trinity provided 60 students at the Kayimit Community School with uniforms.



Yards and yards of material causes much excitement!



Each child was measured for a custom-made uniform.

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](mailto:trinitychurch@trinitybranford.org)

[www.trinitybranford.org](http://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

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**

## August 2013, Special Dates

every day calendar @ [trinity branford.org/news](http://trinitybranford.org/news)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 28 Outreach meeting 11:30, Guild Room	BRING TAG	SALE ITEMS	TO UNDER- CROFT	THIS MONTH	2 First Friday Fam- ily Night 5:30 pm	3
4 Fair meeting: After the 8:00 and 10:00, Guild Room; Class on the Grass Canned Goods to	5 Columbus House	6	7	8	9	10
11 Canned Goods to Church; Class on the Grass	12	13 Pastoral Care, noon	14	15 	16	17
18 Canned Goods to Church Class on the Grass; Shepard Fund Sunday	19	20 Vestry 7 pm	21	22	23	24
25 Canned Goods to Church Class on the Grass	26	27	28	29	30	31