
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

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Trinity Episcopal Church Newsletter

November

Letter from our Rector

Dear Friends,

Resiliency. If you are a parent these days, you've already heard this word more times than you can count! The literature on parenting, the message brought to us from educators and professionals who work with children is all about resiliency, how to raise children who will be able to navigate life's storms with some grace and a sense of their own inner being intact.

Resilience is a basic human need for all of us. It begins in childhood, but can be built up or weakened as our life goes on.

But I've come to know in my years in ministry (as well as my years of living,) that we are much stronger than we fear on our bad days. We are able to withstand much more than we know, at the time. What would our lives be like if we knew how much we could endure, and even that we might really prevail over the things that keep us awake at night? What if we knew we were stronger than that which we fear?

The Christian faith, as communicated to us by the saints who have gone before, is capable of helping us to understand just how much we have available to us. God will never abandon us, is there strengthening us in all that happens. Among all the 'changes and chances' of our mortal life, God is with us. Sometimes, all we need is to be reminded. Prayer and worship get these truths into our bones.

Church is the place I come to remember that there is more to my life than my distress and my fears. It is the place to come to be lifted up, inspired by others, helped by them, strengthened to meet the days ahead. It makes us more resilient, less fearful.

It doesn't mean that difficulties won't arise, that we won't have to struggle mightily from time to time. That just comes with living—for all of us. But it does give us the insight to understand the movement of our days and, one hopes, the grace to do so with humor and intention for good.

Love,

Ellen

Vestry Notes- September meeting

Boiler under the church is ancient and will not turn on. The boiler for the rectory is newer, but noisy. Bids for replacement of the church boiler have been sought. Scoville and Westside Mechanical have declined to bid. Property committee concerned about so few bids and have until Friday to get more. Central Mechanical has bid \$54,500. Decision on boiler will be made by next weekend. Estimate on fuel savings per year not available. Natural gas contract for a year has been signed. Central Mechanical said it would take two weeks to do the job. Motion made to offer funds from the line of credit not to exceed \$67,000 in total pending to move forward with replacing the boiler as bid; seconded and passed all in favor.

Treasurer's Report Soup Kitchen behind in rent. Messenger listed in office expenses. Scrip has own line. Motion made to receive Treasurer's Report, seconded and passed all in favor.

Accounts payable report passed out.

Deficit October draw on endowment has been taken. Probably new deficit next year. Chief costs are fixed. Start thinking about what to do with deficit now.

Stewardship Stewardship committee must be formed. Stewardship meeting Thursday October 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Scrip Cards Up and going. Stamp for checks to be made. Vestry members currently needed to cover 8:00 and 10:30 services (after each service). Goal is to have vestry members now, then a vestry and a parishioner, and eventually just parishioners. Sign up sheet passed around. Sign off sheet for payments to be created.

Street Fair Plan is to sell water at the fair. Set up Sunday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Fair going from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Selling water for a \$1.00. Drop off for baking at church Saturday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and early Sunday morning.

Garden Fair Currently networking. Want to do before Mother's Day, so it would be either end of April or beginning of May.

Long Range Strategy Groups Possible ideas for long range planning are to look at use of Rectory building by a third party; and long term energy strategies – solar power, fuel cell. If interested see Rev. Ellen Tillotson.

Gulf Coast Any interest in pursuing a partnership with a Gulf Coast parish after Hurricane Katrina. Could be youth group involvement, send down church supplies, sponsor family, etc. Any interest – see Rev. Ellen Tillotson.

Art Series Kathy Kruse, director of Arts Series has signaled intention to resign. Rev. Ellen Tillotson to be in discussion with her. Appeal for this year about to go out and some events already scheduled. Series leadership projects a modest profit by the end of this season (May) After next May, may reduce or put Series on hiatus. Regarding Janet Marlow contract, per attorney, we will settle.

Jubilee Real honor for church. Mayor and other dignitaries coming for October 2, 10:30 a.m. service. Will have press coverage.

Tower Have three major problems with the clock tower, but it is not coming down. Some rotting and some cracks. Repairing roof comes after furnace replacement.

10:30 Time Change Favorable feedback. Better for education purposes. Snack shop available for children. Snack shop was raided this Sunday and may be moved upstairs. The snacks are not free.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Child Care is offered each Sunday from 7:45am to 11:45am and is located downstairs in the Church School area.

Children's & Youth Ministries

Fifth Sunday On Sunday Oct. 30th, our children and youth led a wonderful service at 10:30AM focusing on "Acting out our Christian Faith" here at Trinity, in the community, and in the larger world. From costumes of those who help us in the community, to stewardship drawings of how we act out our faith, to a very powerful sermon by our mission trip youth about their experiences this summer working in the Appalachian Mountains. Thank you to all involved in helping to make

these Fifth Sundays so meaningful not only for the children but for us all.

Church School Our church school program will be completing its first unit of study on Sunday Nov. 13th. Our new unit will begin on Dec. 4th. The themes for each grade level are: PK-1; Jesus as the teacher, 2nd-3rd; the Sermon on the Mount, and 4th-5th; the reign of God. During Advent all three groups have within the unit a focus on the birth of Christ.

Family Church School- Sunday Nov. 20th will be our second Family Church School this year. All parents are invited to join their children for a short lesson together and then the children will go to their classroom for a project. Parents will be given ideas about how to bring the Advent season into the home. Also there will be information about the new movie coming out in December; *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. If time allows we will join the children in their rooms to assist in their projects.

Sunday Nov. 27th- -Advent Wreath Making Workshop between the services. See additional details below. Note: new child friendly wreaths will be available. No Church School Classes.

Journey to Adulthood Youth Program All three groups are up and continuing to run their calendar schedule (additional calendars available in Upper Parish Hall). We are still looking for two men to co-lead in this program; one with the Pilgrims and their two female leaders and one with the Rite 13ers (youngest group) with their female leader. One of the goals of this program is to model adult Christian Faith in their female and male leaders. What are we telling our youth when we cannot find men to lead them? If you might be willing to help these young people you will find that you will grow along with them. The experience will be deeply rewarding to you. If you would like please speak to any of the past leaders (they are only able to serve for 2 years at a time-its not a lifelong commitment!!); Mary Hart, Jim Allen, Roger Coutant, Gary Grant, Deb Reardon, Bea Tirrell, Maria Skinner, and Beth Steinberg or you can see Linda Snyder or the clergy.

Holiday Fair Our Pilgrim's parents are working hard to organize the Holiday Fair on Sat. November 12th. We are looking for any craft items and bake goods to donate to those two J2A tables. Please see additional information in this Messenger.

Christmas Pageant Our children and youth Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday Dec. 18th during the 10:30AM service. We will be looking for participant commitment in late November. Practices will be held at least Sunday, Dec. 4th and Sunday December 11th with

mandatory dress rehearsal on Sat. Dec. 17th in the morning. We are also looking for adults to assist with this year's program. If you are able to help please contact Linda Snyder.

Advent Wreath Making Workshop- Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday November 27th at 9:00AM to build an Advent wreath to take home.

We will have forms, wire, and live greens available (please bring cutters if you have them). This year we have also found a "child friendly" version of the Advent wreath that we will have available to the children to make. Please sign up in the upper parish hall by the coffee hour cart so we can make sure we have enough supplies available. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with this program please call the office.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Book Discussion Group The following books have been chosen for discussion during the next 6 months. There is plenty of time to join the bandwagon. Many of our new dates fall on Tues. or Wed. in the hope that choir members might be tempted to join us. The discussions are fun. We serve tea and meet at 7:30pm at church. All of these books have been extremely well reviewed in the press. They are out in paperback and available at your local library.

Tues Nov. 15: Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded: August 27, 1883 by Simon Winchester. A dramatic natural disaster, the eruption of a volcano near Sumatra, eradicates an entire island and sends tsunamis in all directions. More than 36,000 people were killed. One reviewer said the book "like its subject (is) deserving of superlatives"!

Jan. : The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon. A 15 year old detective, who idolizes Sherlock Holmes, tries to solve the mystery of the killing of a neighbor's dog. This is extremely difficult, as the hero is an autistic savant and has trouble relating to other people.

**Sunday Morning Adult Formation Series
Between Services - 9:15-10:15 AM
in the Undercroft Chapel**

Leading our programs:

The Reverend Ellen L. Tillotson, Rector

The Reverend Audrey Scanlan, Curate

All are invited to attend one, some, or all of these sessions.

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE is necessary.

Nov 6 The Bible: Wisdom Literature- Instructions for the moral life. Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Ecclesiasticus, Wisdom

Nov 13 Potluck: Come and share what's on your mind... 'Stump the Clergy.'

Nov 20 Centering Prayer:
a time to learn about and experience this contemplative form of prayer

Nov 27 No program - Thanksgiving Weekend

Dec 4 The Incarnation- the patristic roots: God With Us? Emmanuel? the first attempts at understanding

Dec 11 The Incarnation- modern formulations. Who is Jesus for us today? Why the Incarnation still matters.

Dec 18 No program - Pageant

Dec 25 No program - Christmas

Additional Adult Formation Program offered:

Via Media: an introduction to the widely diverse ECUSA. Videos and discussion on topics including the Bible, Sin, Jesus, Christian Hope. November 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec . 7, 14, 21 at 6:30. *Preceded by Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM. Includes supper.*

The undercroft chapel can be reached by a lower entrance on water street, or by descending the inside staircase just inside the upper parish hall door.

UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATE

Stephen Ministry Training Program (6:45 to 9:00 pm), continues each Monday concluding Feb 2006. For information, speak with a member of our clergy or contact one of our co-leaders: Mary Hart (482-1107) or Herb Mohlenhoff (868-9050).

Stephen Ministry Supervision and Continuing Education Program Tuesday, November 8 from 7 to 9pm.

VIA MEDIA Wednesdays - 6:30 PM beginning on November 9 continuing thru December A study program to explore the Episcopal Church.. Please join us for supper, videos and engaging discussion on topics including the Bible, Sin, Jesus, Christian Hope and more, in an informal setting. If you have questions about the Church or want to explore your faith more deeply, please consider joining us. No previous experience necessary, just an eagerness to listen, to share, and to grow.

?’s in Theology Changed to Thurs, Nov 10 at 7:30pm in the Living Room.

Men’s Breakfast to meet on Saturday, Nov 12 in the Living Room at 9:00am. All men in the Parish are welcome!

The Holiday Fair is Sat. Nov 12 from 9am to 3pm. Donations for the tea cup auction, bake sale, book sale, and any craft items, please contact Lynn Capitanio at 496-7332, (e-mail rcapitanio@hotmail.com) Heidi Greenlaw at 482-9277.

Acolyte Training CHANGED to Sunday November 13 at Noon.

Book Discussion Group Tuesday, Nov 15 at 7:30pm in Living Room. Book entitled Krakatoa; The Day the World Exploded: August 27, 1883 by Simon Winchester. All are welcome!

Souper Seniors Wednesday, Nov 16 gathering in the Parish Hall following the 12:10pm service.

Thanksgiving Inter-faith Service here at Trinity on Thursday, November 17 at 7:30pm.

Women’s EVE-ning next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 18 from 7 to 9pm in the Chapel. All women and their friends are invited to come and learn about the bible.

Vestry Meeting, Monday, November 21 at 7:30pm in Parish Hall.

Vesper Service Sunday, November 27 at 7:00pm

Trinity Knitters Wed Dec 7 from 1-3pm. **Note: this month knitters will meet at the home of one of**

the group’s members home. Please call the Parish Office, 482-6027 for directions.

Grief and bereavement support group: Next meeting: Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30pm. Have you experienced a loss recently? Does a long-ago loss still rise up to surprise you with its strength from time to time? On the first Wednesday of each month, at 6:30, in the Rectory Living Room, there is an opportunity to gather to reflect on grief and our spirituality. Join with your fellow Christians in bearing one another’s burdens and seeking after peace and insight. If you have questions, please speak to the Rector. And feel free just to drop in as you might have need.

NSDAR Community Service Awards for Volunteerism will be presented to **Polly Doremus & Margaret Wood** on **Sunday, November 20**, at The Litchfield Country Club, 265 Old South Road, Litchfield.. For Reservation call Joyce Cropsey 567-9633, or Claire Bachmann, 567-8077.

Operation Overflow, the emergency overflow shelter is in desperate need of volunteers to stay overnight in the shelter this winter. This is an extremely rewarding and humbling experience, not to mention life-saving for someone who is out on the streets during the harshest months of the year. If you would like more information about Operation Overflow please plan to attend an informational meeting on Wednesday, November 9 @ 7:00pm at Center Congregational Church, Torrington or contact Melinda Harvey @ 489-3133 ext 122. Informational flyers can also be found in the back of the church and in the parish hall on the bulletin board behind the coffee bar.

HERE AT TRINITY

Family News: Do you have some that you would like to share in the Messenger with the Parish?? If so, please submit in written form to the Parish Office or via email to trinity.pariah.house@snet.net.

Professional office space available for rent here at Trinity. The space is located on the second floor above the Parish Office. Call the Parish office, 482-6027, for more information.

Pick a date for Altar Flowers Please consider giving altar flowers! It is a wonderful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or simply to thank God for his many blessings. The donation is \$25 per Sunday and sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. Please contact the office for available dates. Your gifts of flowers will keep the altar looking beautiful throughout the year.

A message from the Outreach Committee..

As parishioners, we have sat in our church home for the past couple of weeks without the warmth of a furnace. I don't think there is a member among us who hasn't felt the deep chill of the coming winter during this time. We will all welcome the new furnace once it is in place. There are those in our area who, due to the rising cost of fuel, will not be able to afford heat this winter. The Outreach Committee is collecting donations toward fuel assistance during the month of November. Thanks to an anonymous donor, the Outreach committee is able to match donations totaling \$200. We would really like to be able to send \$400 to help those who are not able to afford to heat their homes this winter. Please consider giving to Fuel Assistance this month. Thank you for caring.

Ideas Needed The Outreach Ministry feels that there are many ways that we can reach out to the community. In what ways do you feel we can help? If you would like to share your ideas and enthusiasm to help our neighbors, please contact the Parish Office via phone 860-482-6027 or email trinity.parish.house@snet.net. We need your ideas and spirit to continue our level of Outreach which helped us achieve our designation as a Jubilee Center.

Trinity Fundraiser. Buy a pre-paid scrip card and Trinity will earn cash. These pre-paid cards can be used for your every day and weekly purchases as well as gifts. A list of participating stores are posted in the Parish Hall and in the back of the church. Visit the Upper Parish Hall. to purchase cards and/or information. Volunteers are needed to help with sales.

Wood carvings by the "Cat's Meow" of our beautiful church on sale for \$ 16.00. They can be purchased by calling the Parish Office, 482-6027. All proceeds - Flag Pole project. Also available, Trinity coffee Mugs \$8 each.

Communion at Worship Celiac disease affects as many as 1 in 133 people. At Trinity we have been happy to consecrate rice wafers for communion for persons who suffer from this genetic intolerance and offer our own wheat-free wafers on request. We welcome everyone to the Lord's table. If you need communion in this form, please speak with our clergy.

LaCasa, a note from Trinity Parishioner, Melinda Harvey In the midst of pre-moving planning and packing, job changes and all the other things that life throws our way, this past June, I linked up with a group from the northwest corner and went to the Colonias of northern Mexico to build houses.

The Colonias are areas of barren rocky land where people from the southern parts of Mexico come to live and find work in the factories (US and other international countries) that line the border. The families of the Colonias live in desperate poverty, most of them working a forty-five hour week in the factories for an average pay of one dollar an hour. Factory jobs that pay \$10.00 per day are considered good jobs.

The Baja desert is hot in the daytime and cold at night. There are no trees, and the sun is ever present. The ground is hard gray clay, and there is no escape from the windblown dust that clings to every part of one's body. There is no running water and electricity though becoming more available, is still scarce. Water is delivered to each home by truck and at a high price. There are no sewage facilities or trash facilities and it is common that families burn their trash, setting off brush fires across the dusty hills leaving them black and scorched. They can mortgage a small piece of land from the government if they build a home on it. So, the families of the Colonias build shelters out of anything they can scavenge, typically wooden pallettes nailed together with tarpaper woven between the flats.

Armed with this information, I signed on with The La Casa Project, a project whose origins started some 15 years ago when Jimmy Whiteside, a member of the UCC church in Cornwall participated in a trip with a local missionary group building houses in the Baja Colonias. Since then, Jimmy and several other Cornwall and Northwest CT residents have been going annually to Mexico to build houses for the poor. They raise the funds to purchase the building materials, and pay their own way to and from San Diego. The houses are simple decent shelters. Typically they are 16 X 20, wood framed structures on concrete slabs, with one door and three windows. The interiors are divided into three rooms with a loft area. The houses are wired for electricity, wallboard installed, joints taped and the exterior painted. The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

On June 18, 2005, 36 of us met in San Diego to begin our 4-day house-building mission. I had met some of my fellow house builders at either the annual New Years Day pancake breakfast fundraiser, or at one of the two pre-trip planning meetings I attended. We were a mixed group of teens, middle aged, elders and family groups. We were handy or not, experienced builders, or not, and amazingly all of us had contributions to offer. (Three of our teens incidentally were missing their high school graduations to be with us. They had all been before, and felt it was more important for them to be with us in Mexico!)

One of the first things that struck me was the immediate and desperate poverty as soon as we crossed into Mexico. The contrast is startling. We passed houses made from old camper trailers, palates, and garage doors. Most just had plastic tarps for their roof. The main roads outside of Tijuana, while paved are not well maintained and many

have huge ruts and potholes. Many of the roads we traveled were dirt roads, which also were traversed by deep gullies. Driving was not an easy or smooth venture. Our home base and sleeping quarters was the Rancho La Paloma, in Tecate, Mexico, a lovely oasis with a wonderful staff and more than adequate bunking facilities.

Meals other than lunch were served here and the food was native and delicious. Running water for showers, filtered water for drinking and flush toilets made it a luxury facility in comparison.

We arrived at the ranch on Saturday evening and settled in with an early start planned for the next few days to go to our building site. Rising at 6:00am each day for breakfast and driving the 20 minutes to the building site got us working by 8:00am. The workday generally went until 4:30-5:00pm.

The Baja Mission Group, who oversees and coordinates the house building projects, picks the families. The site is prepared and ready to go when we arrive with a poured concrete floor foundation and all of the building materials unloaded. La Casa keeps power tools in Mexico for their annual trip and each of the volunteers was to bring their own basics such as a hammer, carpenter pencils, nail pouch, measuring tape, and multi-purpose tool. Carl from Carl's True Value graciously donated my tools for the trip.

Once at the job site we were split into two building teams each working on a specific house. I was assigned the job of being the "A" house cutter. That meant running the chop saw and the circular saw. While some of the framing was pre-cut much was not and even the 16 foot 2 x 4s had extra inches that had to be taken off. I loved it! It felt like each cut was a piece of a puzzle and slowly we put that puzzle together. I also had a chance to paint, hammer, learn to install a door, and collaborate on a flower box for beneath the front window for our family who loved plants. From the 9 year olds to the 75 year olds, there was work for everyone, and everyone had the opportunity to do a variety of jobs, including roofing, wiring, framing, cutting, painting, nailing and sheet rocking.

During the next 2.5 days, our crew of 36 erected 2 houses and 2 new outhouses for our families. Some of the family members including children helped. Our family was a young couple with two young children. The husband works 6 days a week from 7:00am to 5:00pm digging sewage ditches. The wife, along with keeping the house and caring for the two children, worked three 12-hour overnight shifts at a textile factory. Even working all those hours, their house was made from

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garage doors with a tarp roof. They at least had access to electricity, which they had hot-wired from one of the utility poles.

It is an amazing thing to build someone a new home in just 2.5 days. For them to go from one room, to three rooms with a loft, a door and windows was exciting. It is an activity that makes a very real tangible difference in a family's life. It is humbling to be in their presence of extreme gratification at being given such a gift that should be a basic right. We ended our project with a house blessing and piñata for the children.

It is hard to describe the full impact and range of emotions I have felt from my trip. I have worked around extreme poverty, and I have intellectually known for a long time that we live a privileged life taking the basics in life for granted. But the impact was much more subtle, deeper this time. I came home knowing how blessed I am to own my own house, with running hot and cold water, in which to bathe and access to electricity. While we complain about the cost of our utilities, we forget that around the world and not so far from home, many people don't even have that access yet. It was a reminder that material goods are just things, having only the power and value that we attribute to them, and that as a human being it is my responsibility to care for my fellow human beings, both locally and globally.

For more information about LaCasa, please see Melinda Harvey.

**Trinity Arts series at Trinity Episcopal Church,
Torrington**

220 Prospect Street

MEDIEVAL BANQUET
Saturday, January 28, 2006
6:00pm

This event is always a sell-out!
There will be music, dancing, food and wine.

King's Table \$75.00
Lords Table \$60.00
Squires Table (a limited number) \$50.00

Reserve NOW at 860-482-4411
before we start mass advertising.

visit their website @
www.trinityartseries.org

CHRISTMAS ANGELICUS CONCERT

here at Trinity

Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30pm

and

Wednesday, December 21 - 7:30pm

**RESERVE NOW AS WE EXPECT A SELL-
OUT!!!**

Tickets - 1-888-788-8882