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# THE TRINITY MESSENGER

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Trinity Episcopal Church Newsletter

March 2005

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## Letter from our Rector

Dear Friends,

Lent caught many of us by surprise this year. I've talked to lots of people, and experienced myself, how Ash Wednesday, falling on February 9<sup>th</sup>, gave little time to get the New Year's business underway so that individuals could devote some time to the introspection and service of their usual Lent. Many years I have tried to cancel all parish meetings during the Lenten season; this year there was just too much to be done following our Annual Meeting to pull that off. (Maybe next year.)

But then I remember that I don't have to turn myself into a pretzel in order to 'make Lent happen.' There is something about the texts that we read and hear in church, about the somewhat more somber liturgy, about this 'season of the heart and spirit' that works in us, all by itself, if we just open our minds and ears and souls to hear and taste it.

Lent happens. At least when we make just a little room to listen and attend to the round of the lessons and hymns, and when we devote just a little time to church, to study, to quiet. Just a little time.

I've been leading a group of folks interested in learning something about Benedictine spirituality during this Lent, which means that I've had a chance to learn something more about it myself. I've also been working with two adults who are preparing for baptism at our Easter Vigil, and that has led me deep into the faith that sometimes trips almost glibly from my lips—these two inquirer's have made me see the riches of the Christian faith afresh as they encounter it as something quite new. Lent happens. And I'm grateful.

If Lent has caught you by surprise this year, don't lose heart. There is still time to take time, to pick up a simple book ([Always We Begin Again](#), by John McQuiston is one the Benedictine study group is being offered, and there is a great book along the same lines by Esther deWaal, [Living with Contradictions](#) )

And Holy Week is still to come—a whole Lent in miniature. I hope that you will, today, mark out time in your calendar for Wednesday night Tenebrae, the service of readings and incredible sixteenth-century music by Thomas Tallis that moves from light to dark as

the contemplation of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion nears. Maundy Thursday is celebrated with warmth and devotion with a parish meal and ceremonial Seder, followed by the service of Footwashing, Communion and the Stripping of the Altar. On Good Friday, Trinity parishioners reflect on the hours Jesus spent on the cross in our service from noon 'til three. The Great Vigil on Saturday night heralds Easter with the story of salvation from Genesis to the Resurrection, and our participation in that story through baptism. Easter Day, Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup>, rises joyful and clear with, as I like to say, fourteen centuries of church music, including this century.

It's never too late to begin a Holy Lent. And I invite you, again, to that blessed state. Love,

*Ellen*

**Celtic Cross** Sometime this past autumn, a stone cross appeared in the Trinity Cloister Courtyard where our Memorial Garden is located. Here's the story of that cross: As the beautiful Chinese dogwood tree has grown in the center of the memorial garden, it has obscured the plaque with the names of those whose ashes are interred there. Many people have expressed surprise when they find out that our courtyard functions as a burial site, and many people whose loved ones are buried there have been startled to find children playing boisterously in that courtyard. It became clear that we needed to mark the area as a somewhat more solemn area than the hidden plaque allowed. Audrey and I were approached by a sometime parishioner who has two loved ones buried in the garden with the offer of some kind of statue to mark the hallowed ground there. Working with a local company and putting the design out for approval (though not for a parish vote), we settled on this Celtic cross, from the ancient spiritual tradition practiced throughout the British Isles from the second century, and a strong part of our Anglican heritage.

The cross itself marks no one burial site, and is not a 'grave marker.' There will not suddenly be a preponderance of stone markers growing up in our perpetual garden, in which no one has an isolated permanent burial plot, but only a place where ashes can return to the earth naturally. As with most things at Trinity, some people like the addition very much, others less. Personally, I'm reserving full appreciation for a

hundred years or so, when the stone of the cross will have taken on the moss and aging patina that our church building has. Like the Celtic crosses you can find by the side of the road in Scotland and Ireland, it marks how the sacred permeates the secular world and, like those crosses, it can remind all who see it along the way to say a prayer.

### Vestry Notes- January Meeting 2005

#### Treasurer's Report

Gary Grant went over general fund report for January – December 2004. Theological education for 2004 was budgeted but not paid out. Motion made to receive and forward report to the general meeting, seconded, passed all in favor. 2005 budget worksheets gone over. Will have a second alms basin for outreach appeal. Went over cuts made at vestry budget meeting. J2A \$5000 request would go to 570.310 – J2A Parish Contribution. Rev. Ellen Tillotson proposed additional cuts. Reduce evangelism, cut adult education to zero, cut music to \$6400 and reduce bookkeeper's hours. Adding J2A request, brings deficit to \$44,610. Funds to be raised by fundraising. Fundraising ideas include a little Trinity store selling prayer books, mugs, t-shirts; sell water at area events. Fundraising appeal will be brought up at general meeting. At next vestry meeting a fundraising group will be put together. Stewardship committee will become ongoing. Cuts can still be made after the budget is passed. If the fundraising is not successful, after this year, there is no more money from the endowment unless Resource Mgmt earns it for us. Motion to send 2005 budget to general meeting with various adjustments, \$44,610 deficit; vestry takes responsibility for organizing and carrying out the necessary fundraising, seconded, passed all in favor.

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

At both the 8am and 10:15am Sunday Service we offer infant to toddler Child Care in the Nursery which is located downstairs in the Church School area. Child Care is offered from 7:45am to 11:45am.

#### Children's & Youth Ministries

**Church School** Our church school continues to explore their Lenten theme of Eucharist. Our parents recently viewed a video created by the Dioceses of Colorado which delves into the Episcopal theology and practice of membership in the Anglican Communion after Baptism. Our unit will end with a Eucharist

workshop for families on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>. More information below.

**Jesus is Wandering!!** Jesus (our doll only!) has "over stayed" his welcome in a home of one of our church school students. If you have the doll at your home would you please call the Office or drop him off as soon as possible so others might share his company prior to Easter.

#### Journey to Adulthood Youth Program

**Souper Bowl for Caring:** Rite 13 would like to thank all who contributed to our Souper Bowl of Caring last month. They raised \$210.00 in donations. Part of the funds were given to the Soup Kitchen and part were given to The Ton of Food Drive here at Trinity.

The J2A pilgrims extend heartfelt thanks to the parish family for supporting their Shake Off the Winter Blues Social! The funds raised from the social have brought them closer in making their Nova Scotia pilgrimage a reality!

**Y.A.C. Mission Trip:** Not only is our J2A group going on pilgrimage to Nova Scotia this summer but our oldest group of youth, our "Young Adults in Church" is planning to join a group of young people from St. John's, Washington this August and travel to West Virginia on a mission trip. There they will be working for a community: building, painting, planting, etc. to enhance the lives of those in the area. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to sharing our experiences with Trinity.

#### Additional Faith Formation Programs

**Toddler program-Easter Sunday March 27** A special program just for our toddlers! Our youngest members (through age 5) are welcome to join in our "Play Area" (nursery) and Chapel during the Liturgy of the Word for a fun, age appropriate activity session centered around the Easter Story. They will join us at the Peace for Eucharist. No sign up is necessary. Ask an usher in Church if you need directions to the nursery/Chapel area.

**Eucharist Workshop** Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 2:00PM the church school teachers and Children's Ministry Committee will be leading a workshop open to all families, teens, and adults focusing on the Eucharist. We will be discussing why we celebrate the Eucharist, explore the prayers and rituals of our service and tour the Sacristy where the vestments and utensils are kept. We will be concluding with a variety of hands-on activities for all. Please bring a bag lunch. We are also asking for a donation of \$5.00 for an individual or \$12.00 for a family to cover the cost of supplies. Please sign up in the Upper Parish Hall by April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**The Way of the Cross** The Adult Spiritual Formation Committee and the Children's Ministry Committee would like to invite all Trinity members to join us in a new program called The Way of the Cross on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) from approximately 12:30-4:00PM. We will begin with a (brought) bag lunch together, then break up into to age appropriate groups to explore the Anglican Stations of the Cross. We will come back together to travel to Lourdes in Litchfield to walk their stations with our own prayers and reflections; ending our time together with cocoa, cookies, and fellowship in their hall. Anyone interested in joining us please sign up in the Parish Hall. There will be rides available to those who need transportation to Lourdes and back to Trinity. If you have questions about this afternoon please speak with a staff person or call the Office.

### Adult Spiritual Formation

**Book Discussion Group** see schedule below for the dates and books the group will discuss in the coming months:

All books are in our Trinity Library. They are available in paperback and at other libraries if our copy is out.

April 7th: 7:30; Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder. Follow the tale of a remarkable doctor who tends the poorest of the poor in Haiti.

May 17th: 7:30 Pope Joan by Donna Cross. Was there really a female pope?????

July 21st: 7:30 The Dante Club by Matthew Pearl. A novel of suspense that mixes the cultures of wealthy Bostonian men of letters and the denizens of the seedy streets of that city in a mystery of the 1860's.

**Holy Cross Retreat Retreatants!** Two nights at Holy Cross April 29 – May 1, the cost total is \$170.00. A deposit of \$ 85.00 (50 % of total cost) are due NOW in the parish office. Please submit checks made out to Trinity Church with memo re: Holy Cross Retreat deposit. A double room still available.

Looking ahead **Christian Spirituality in Celtic Lands:**

**A two-part exploration of Celtic Influences on Christianity over the ages.**

**Sunday, April 24: 1:00** - The Rev. Patricia Davidson will introduce us to the wide ranging influences that the Celtic spirit has had on Western Christianity. She will give us an overview of the role of the monastic life, of the art, and of nature in the Celtic world. She will also describe the general attitudes on the Trinity, the

doctrine of creation, and themes from the Eastern desert that we can find today in our prayer book. She has led trips to Ireland and is very knowledgeable on this topic. She's coming to us from Essex, Ct, so let's give her a large turnout!

**Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>: 1:00** - We will see a movie entitled A Thin Place: Iona and the Celtic Way. This will give us a visual travelogue of Celtic remains, and at the same time enlarge on what Pat Davidson will have given us the week before. Kate Flower will lead a group discussion afterwards (film lasts half an hour). There are many themes to explore.

**Both sessions will be preceded by a simple soup and bread luncheon beginning at 12:00.** This should make it easy to stay after the 10:15 service. There will be a free will offering to cover the expense of the speaker and the film. Please sign up for these events.

In conjunction with this series, photographs of Ireland will be displayed on the stage. Pat Keegan is the very accomplished photographer.

**"The Good, the Bad... and the Difference."**

### Tuesday Evenings in April

Mark your calendars now to attend one or all of these lively sessions discussing modern day social ethics, as presented in the book of the same name, by Randy Cohen. In the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, Cohen responds to a different ethical question each week.

There are some of us who are eager to jump into the discussion, and we welcome your participation! We will be drawing case studies from Cohen's book as well as from our own experience. As we work through some of these problems we hope to gain an awareness of how we make decisions, of how we order and prioritize our lives and how we determine what has value for us. In a Christian context? Yes. And No. As Christians we work with a framework given to us in scripture to guide our lives. We will explore in our discussions how that framework may- or may not- come into play as we make decisions and move in this world. But this is not a course in Christian ethics. It is, perhaps, most importantly, an opportunity for us to see how we can remain as faithful people in an increasingly secular world which makes great demands of us in community.

Come learn more or talk to Robert Rovezzi or The Rev. Audrey Scanlan for more details.

### UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATE

Sat March 12 9am Men's Breakfast  
next month April 9  
Wed March 16 following 12:10srvc Souper Seniors  
next month April 20

**COME AND SHARE HOLY WEEK & EASTER  
WITH US**

**Palm Sunday March 20**

**8:00am & 10:15am**

Joyful procession of palms, Holy Eucharist followed by a dramatic reading of the Passion story

**Wednesday, March 23**

**8:00pm**

Tenebrae Service

A candlelight service from the ancient monastic tradition of Tenebrae ("darkness")

*Music by Thomas Tallis: 'Lamentations' – "The most passionate music ever created."*

**Maundy Thursday, March 24**

**5:45pm**

Seder Dinner

Parish gathering in Upper Parish Hall followed by supper in Lower Parish Hall.

All Trinity Parish members and their friends are invited to attend. If you are attending please call parish office, 482-6027.

**8:00pm**

Holy Eucharist & Foot Washing, and Stripping of the High Altar

*Music by Gretchaninov, Durufle, and Sheppard*

**Good Friday, March 25**

**12:00 - 3:00pm**

*\* participate as your schedule allows*

Readings and Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ

**Easter Eve (Saturday), March 26**

**8:00pm**

The Great Vigil

Darkness dispelled by the New Fire of Easter with First Celebration of the Resurrection

*Music by Halley, Mendelssohn, and Alain*

**Easter Day, March 27**

**8:00am & 10:15am**

A jubilant Jazz Mass for the Resurrection amid the splendor of lilies with The Easter Ensemble, the Trinity Church Choir.

*Music by Duke Ellington, and Paul Halley*

**Easter Holiday Memorials** Remember a loved one during this holiday season with a donation for flowers or special music. Donations for music will go towards the cost of special soloists or other musical artists. Please indicate on your check in the memo section, your choice—flowers or music and the name of your loved one.

**Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop "Pysanky"**

On Saturday, 19 March from 9-12 AM parishioner Susan Jones will be leading a workshop teaching the art of decorating Ukrainian Eggs. Using eggs, dye and wax, plain eggs are transformed into works of art. This is a workshop that is open to twenty people and is free of charge. Beginners are welcome. Please sign up in the Upper Parish Hall or call the church office for more information.

**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](mailto: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.

**Wood carvings** by the "Cat's Meow" of our beautiful church on sale for \$ 16.00. They can be purchased following Sunday worship services in the Parish Hall or by calling the Parish Office, 482-6027. All proceeds - Flag Pole project.

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

Our parish **Ton-Of Food** drive during Lent continues through Palm Sunday. Please help us again to meet our goal of reducing hunger in our area. If you are interested in helping with the ton-of-food drive or be on the Outreach Committee, please contact Beth Steinberg or sign up in Parish Hall. Thank you very much!

**TIME & TALENT** Daline Dudley and I (Ann Bott) sat down the other day to discuss how we might better recognize those parishioners who donate their time and talent to Trinity. We started making a list of all of Trinity's ministries that depend on volunteers. The list is so long that we were overwhelmed and hardly know where to start. The Church could not operate effectively without you. So we are going to honor selected volunteers every month here in the *Messenger*.

This month's focus is on Worship Assistants. Imagine what our worship services would be like with no volunteers! No Ushers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Lay Readers, Intercessors, or Deacons. It would be a pretty dull and drab affair. So please notice all the names listed in the bulletin each week and send up a little prayer of thanks for all these people. If you might be interested in one of these ministries, speak to the clergy about it.

Especially give thanks for our Vocational Deacon, Bruce Mason. Did you know that Vocational Deacons (so named because they are not preparing for the Priesthood) are ordained by the Bishop, are assigned by the Bishop to selected ministries in the Diocese and receive no compensation for their time and talent? So to **Bruce Mason, our volunteer of the month**, thank you for helping to lead our worship and for all you do to enhance our spiritual journeys. (An aside: Michael Carroll is a Vocational Deacon Intern, also a volunteer.) Also give thanks to **Bruce Fox** who has been organizing, training and scheduling many of the Worship Assistants for longer than he can remember. A life-time member of the Parish, he has fulfilled many volunteer roles from teaching Church School to Warden (more than once) and currently serves on the Asset Committee and the Adult Formation Committees. Bruce is recruiting Ushers for the 10:15 service. Let the office know if you can help him out.

**Calling All Cooks** It is time to produce a new Trinity Cookbook! Our parish is full of many accomplished chefs, as the occasional potluck supper has revealed! So dust off the card file with Grandma's secrets inside and share them with your parish family. We hope to celebrate the release of this collection with a festive "Taste of Trinity" event where we can sample some of the goods. We will also be assembling a 'test kitchen' crew to cook our way through the submitted recipes before the book is published. If you are interested in working on this project, contact Susan Jones ([sdjones@sdjones.net](mailto:sdjones@sdjones.net)) or see the Curate, Audrey Scanlan.

### **Start Training NOW for Team Trinity!!**

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> is the Bishop's Fund for Children Annual 5K Road Race in West Hartford Center. Last year, Trinity was represented by an intrepid group of 14 parishioners (and four dogs) in an admirable team showing: 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for youth and 2<sup>nd</sup> place female clergy finisher. (go figure) This year, we hope to increase the team size and raise still more money for this important charity in our diocese. The Bishop's Fund for Children gives away, annually, \$30,000 in grant funds to programs that serve at-risk children in our diocese.

Linda Snyder and the Rev. Audrey Scanlan are both members of the Fund's Board of Trustees. This is an event that encourages all runners and walkers (and canines) to come out for some healthy fun. (And you will get 2 great t-shirts!...) As many walkers participate as runners so *do not* be scared off! More information will be forthcoming on the race, but lace up your sneakers and get started now!

**The SANDWICH Generation** Does this sound familiar? You are an adult with an active family life, career, community commitments, with children still at home or in college and an aging parent who perhaps lives with you, in a nearby nursing home or even in a care facility in a remote location... you struggle to find the balance between caring for family at home while making certain that your parent(s) are OK and still search for time to do the things that re-charge your own batteries. Are you stressed out? Exhausted? Anxious? In need of information or support?

Or maybe you have found the balance and could share some tips. It seems that there are many of us out there in this situation and the Adult Formation committee would like to respond to the request for some conversation on this topic. On Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 5pm - 6:30pm we will sponsor a panel of speakers in care giving professions who can talk to these issues. Come with questions and share some of your own success stories. We will be serving tea and ... sandwiches! For more information, contact the church office or speak to Eleanor Fox .

### **TRINITY ARTS SERIES 2005**

[www.trinityartseries.org](http://www.trinityartseries.org)

**Celtic Pathways** Opening Reception of Photography from Ireland by Pat Keegan

**April 1** 6:00 - 8:00pm - Free

**Shakespeare & Company** present Julius Caesar

**April 9** 8:00pm Call for tickets, 482-4411

**Historical Tour and Concert** Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus, directed by Paul Halley, present "An Architectural Gem of Torrington."

Horse drawn carriage rides highlight different styles of architecture in Torrington. Stained Glass Windows tour of Trinity Episcopal Church led by Susan Jones and an International Coffee & Pastry Bar will be available before and after the concert.

**April 23** Tours starting at 2:00pm - Concert 4:00pm

Call for tickets, 482-4411.