
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

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Trinity Episcopal Church Newsletter

January 2006

Letter from our Rector

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, January 29th, we hold a very important event in our parish life: the Annual Meeting of the parish. Like any meeting, it can be as valuable or as routine as we make it. I want to invite (I'd compel it if I could!) your presence and participation on the 29th of January, this year's Annual Meeting.

At our combined 9:30 worship service that day, the children of our Church School and Youth programs will be responsible for much of the leadership of worship. This has become our custom when there is a Fifth Sunday in a month.

After that we'll hold the Annual Meeting. We will choose new leadership for the parish, electing Vestry, Wardens, Treasurer and a Clerk that day. The current Vestry will present the budget for the coming year, which they will have worked on and passed at their January meeting. Then, it is my hope that we can have a guided conversation about the Sunday morning schedule at Trinity. As you know, we tried this year to move worship to 8:00 and 10:30, with some time for increased Christian education for all ages between services. In some ways this has been a success, in others, it has presented a disappointment. So I'd like us to have a talk, as a parish, about what we've been trying to accomplish and to think together about how best to fulfill our goals.

In the Episcopal tradition, everyone's voice is welcome in the discussion. We need everyone at the table to be all that God calls us to be. If you have an opinion or thought about our Sunday morning worship and education schedule, I hope that you will be at this meeting to share it. If you don't, then we need some careful listeners to help evaluate other people's input. We need each other. Maybe there are some new ideas we haven't thought of yet. Maybe we're just fine as we are and need only the time to live into our new routine. But talking together will help us learn this.

Your voice is needed to make Trinity the most faithful

and vital place it can be. But it won't be heard if you aren't there. I believe we can reach a deeper wisdom together than any small group of us can alone. See you on the 29th!
Love,

Ellen

P.S. We have a working boiler! (Which you already know.) What you may not know is that we received a grant to help pay for the boiler—a matching grant of \$16,000. We've raised another \$13,000 or so—if you would like to make an extra contribution to our warm buildings this winter, please consider helping us to raise the last \$3000. Even a small contribution will make a big difference with this matching grant.

Vestry Notes- November meeting

Treasurer's report Insurance payment from accessed line of credit due to deferred payment in the summer. Motion to receive treasurer's report, seconded and passed all in favor.

Pledging report Ann Bott stated that a letter with pledge cards will be sent out with phone calls to follow in mid December. At this time we have 109 pledges to total 196,297.00. 45 people have increased their pledges and 15 have decreased their pledges.

Rector's report Bequest received from the estates of Robert and Arlene Milton. Advance payment of Estate to Trinity: \$26,000. Deposited to general endowment.

Boiler replacement done

Nominating committee of retiring Vestry: Warden Roger Coutant, Treasurer Gary Grant, Mark Fuller, Sarah Garrison, Melinda Harvey, Ray Jobin.

Announcements Scrip Cards have raised \$800.00 to date

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Child Care is offered each Sunday from 7:45am to 11:45am and is located downstairs in the Church School area. See schedule below for holiday services.

Children's & Youth Ministries

Church School- Our Church School will continue their two unit focuses: Jesus the teacher, Sermon on the Mount, and The Reign of God. They will also be preparing for our second Fifth Sunday~Children and Youth Worship Service, Jan. 29th at 9:30AM. Each class has been given an opportunity to participate in this service. The individual class assignments are listed below. If you have any questions please speak with Linda Snyder or your child's teacher.

Fifth Sunday~Children and Youth Worship Service- We hope to have as many of our children and youth involved on Jan. 29th, as possible. Although the major piece of this programming will be done during church school time there are a few items that need parental attention. Below are listed the responsibilities for each classroom for that Sunday.

PreK-1st graders will be leading our procession and recession with our own acolyte crosses that will be made by the older classes. They will be also joining the 2/3 grade in leading the psalm responses. Parents are asked to please practice with their children the responses referenced in the most recent parent letter. **2nd/3rd graders** will be Ushering and Greeting that morning and along with Preschool and 1st Grade they will be leading the procession and recession and leading the psalm responses. Parents are asked to please practice with their children the responses referenced in the most recent parent letter.

4th/5th graders will be writing and leading the Prayers of the People for that day. Those who wish to present them will be given parts to practice at home.

Rite 13 class will be writing and reading the Collect of the Day and helping the 2/3 graders with ushering.

J2A Pilgrims will be reading the verses of the Psalm. **YACs** will assist with the young children's procession and recession. They will also create and present the sermon.

We would like to ask all children and youth that can, to stay after the 10:30 service for about 20 mins. on Sunday January 22nd to run through their parts prior to the 29th. If you or your children are unable to attend this rehearsal and/or Fifth Sunday please advise your child's teacher so we can adjust our plans.

Journey to Adulthood Youth Program

All three groups of J2A have begun meeting again after our break. The leaders are creating a new calendar for the balance of the year and it will be distributed shortly. Please check with your youth to see if they received a copy in class or call the office for an additional copy. It is very important to the success of this program and the spiritual growth of our youth that they be present at as many of our morning sessions AND afternoon sessions as possible. This is where their community of peers is formed. If your teen is not there on a somewhat regular basis they are not going to create the friendships, shared experiences, and memories that are so integral to their peer community.

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.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon will be discussed on Jan 24 at 7:30pm.

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.

Horse Heaven by Jane Smiley will be discussed on Feb. 21st at 7:30pm

This explores the world of horse owners, trainers and the horses themselves. Meet the Maybricks, a family of magnates and socialites, and get immersed in the world of thoroughbreds. There is even a love triangle to untangle!

The Beautiful Ghosts by Eliot Pattison will be discussed on April 20th at 7:30pm

Here we travel to Tibet. This novel is a mystery. It reveals much of the Buddhist culture and delineates the clash of cultures between Tibet and China. The mystery involves the disappearance of some religious artifacts.

Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult will be discussed on May 30th at 7:30pm

This is another mystery and another clash of cultures. This novel takes place in contemporary Amish country. The mystery involves a baby born dead (stillborn? or murdered?) The clash, of course is between "the plain and the fancy".

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 will meet on Tuesday evenings, January 10 and January 24 from 7 to 9pm.

Men's Breakfast to meet on Saturday, Jan 14 in the Living Room at 9:00am. All men in the Parish are welcome! Next month's meeting is Sat, Feb 11.

Vestry Meeting, Monday, January 16 at 7:30pm in Parish Hall.

Souper Seniors Wednesday, Jan 18 gathering in the Parish Hall following the 12:10pm service. Next month's gathering is Wed, Feb 15.

Vesper Service Sunday, February 5 at 7:00pm "Candlemas"

Rhythms of Grace Sunday, February 5 at 1pm in the Chapel.

Women's EVE-ning Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 13 from 7 to 9pm in the Chapel. All women and their friends are invited to come and learn about the bible.

Trinity Knitters Wed February 1 from 1-3pm in the Rectory Living Room.

Grief and Spirituality: on the first Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m., Trinity's ongoing grief and bereavement group meets. It's a group with a flexible agenda and flexible membership—feel free to come one time or fifty as you may have need. If you plan to attend, please call the parish office by 3:00 that day to let us know you are coming. Next meeting Wednesday, February 1.

Operation Overflow, Thank you to all of the many Trinity Parishioners who have volunteered to help out with Operation Overflow. We are up and running, but can always use more help. If you are interested in volunteering, speak to Melinda Harvey or call 489-3133 ext 122.

A Confirmation class is now being formed in preparation for the Deanery Confirmation on May 17, 2006. If you are a young adult, aged 16 or older and would like to participate please speak to the clergy. Classes will begin on January 15th.

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.parish.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.

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.

Don't forget to wear your name button on Sunday, and leave it in the church for the next week!

Pledging news as to date: As of the publishing of this Messenger, we have received 166 pledges for a total of \$ 251,788 in support our work together. If you have not yet made a financial commitment for 2006, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Pray about it and send your card in to the office at your earliest convenience.

Be good stewards in other ways, too—with electricity rates going up and natural gas prices high, every Trinity parishioner needs to do all s/he can to help us save energy. If you see a light on or a door left ajar this cold winter, please take the initiative to close it. Thanks.

Ushers and Altar Guild: these two ministries at Trinity need some new people to share in them. If you think you might be interested or called to one of these ministries, please speak to Ellen or Audrey. We can help you determine if God might use your gifts in one of these areas. Help to make our worship beautiful and friendly.

The new Trinity cookbook, Tastes of Trinity, it has over 200 tried and true recipes, soup to nuts, and play-dough too! Just \$ 20. Find us after church in the Parish Hall.

Births

Rylan Fox, son of Amanda and Anthony Fox.
Kayla Ann Griffin, daughter of Jessica Griffin.

Baptisms

Madelynne Naomi Leach, Tyler Matthew Baillargeon, Benjamin Marcel Jeannin, Joseph Roger Wilcox, Justin McClane Wilcox, Jr..

Deaths

Harry Birch, The Reverend Canon William Penny, Everett Fenn, Arlene Case.

"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them."

**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

visit their website @
www.trinityartseries.org