
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

Volume 34, Issue 3

Trinity Episcopal Church Newsletter

March 2006

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

Listening is hard work. And in this culture, with the sounds of living all around us, the traffic sounds, radios and TVs and MP3players, the demands of our colleagues, our bosses, our customers, our children, our parents, our families, our friends can sometimes wash over us without us really taking many things in, but leaving us depleted, overwhelmed, defensive, pushed.

And we can be quick to jump the gun on conversations, go on the offensive, get a word in edgewise, speak our mind, say our piece, stand up for what we believe, make ourselves heard above the din of everyday life.

This Lent, at Trinity, we are trying to encourage one another to develop our powers of listening. Audrey has organized four Wednesday evenings on learning to listen—to ourselves and others, to music, to the Bible, to the sound of the quiet of our own hearts' longings. We are beginning every gathering at Trinity with a time of quiet listening so that our meetings and gatherings might be formed by our listening more carefully to one another (strangely enough, it is a truth that, if you spend a little time in silence with another person, you find it easier to hear what they are really saying when they speak.) We are beginning worship with a 'word' from the preacher and some quiet music to meditate on that word before the opening hymn. And, for Lent, we have moved the announcements in worship to the end of the service, giving us time to allow some space in worship for the words of the liturgy to speak to us.

It is our hope that, as we learn to listen more carefully to ourselves and one another, that our discussions and work together in the weeks and months—even years—to come will be more careful and caring, more respectful and, maybe, even more productive.

Into the primordial chaos, God spoke a word and the creation came to be. Into our chaos, God would also speak a word of guidance, of comfort, of challenge, of hope. Jesus is the Word of God to a hurting world. And that—he—is not a word to allow ourselves to miss among all the noise of our lives. Listen! God speaks. Love,

Ellen

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

Church School: -During Lent our church school children and their families will be participating in the **Ton of Food** by designating one meal a week as a **low cost or meatless meal** and buying with this money goods to donate. Each classroom will have an area outside their door to place the canned goods each week. We will keep track of the number of pounds for each class. Maybe some families that don't have church school children might want to join us! Just deposit your canned goods in the back of the Church during Lent. Our children and youth will also be participating in the **Quiet Prayer segment of the Lenten Discipline of Listening** which our adult parishioners are focusing on during this season. Each class will begin with a time of reflection and quiet prayer. -We also have available ideas to bring Lent into the home. They are located on the table just outside the C.S. area. Most of the resources are free and we encourage you to take any that might seem appropriate for you and your family.

Curriculum focuses in this 3rd Unit of ECC are: K-1~Worship:Environment, 2nd and 3rd grade~Worship: People in Community, 4th and 5th Grade~Worship For the specific weekly focus please take a calendar located on the C.S. bulletin board in the upper parish hall. Our Chapel programs for grades K-2 will be supporting the theme of **Worship Environment** by learning about our worship space, parts of our worship service, and manners in this sacred space.

Journey to Adulthood (J2A) Pilgrims

Our middle group of the J2A youth program have been quite visible making and selling Chili and lately selling tickets to Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Munson Easter Candy and Bunco.

'Bunco'... Fellowship Evening

~Come and join us on April 1st for an evening of fellowship and fun beginning at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$12.00 per person and include; a light dinner, rounds of Bunco with prizes and a silent auction. Families are welcome and children's activities will be available lead by the J2A members for an added cost of \$5.00 per family(includes light dinner). Bunco is a game that uses dice to roll specific numbers. After each round partners change and travel around the group of tables. It's a great way to meet members of our parish or the friends they bring along. Tickets must be purchased by March 30. Save the date and reserve your tickets by calling Charlene Doll or purchasing your tickets in the Upper Parish Hall. Because the nature of the evening no walk-ins will be allowed

Y.A.C. Ministries

Young Adults in Church have chosen adult ministries to participate in this Spring:

Children's Chapel~Amy Symonds, Samantha Randall

Ushering~Justin Miller, Amy Pollock, Pat Gondeck
Property Committee~Pat Gondeck, Anthony Nanni
Lectors~Anthony Nanni, Jeff Boratko,
Issiac Languell

Rhythms of Grace~Amy Symonds, Amy Pollock
Soup Kitchen~Alana Williams, Amy Pollock,
Justin Miller

Church School~Tom Lapp, Chris Snyder

They will also be continuing in their confirmation classes held most Sundays at Noon.

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 Beautiful Ghosts by Eliot Pattison will be discussed on April 4 (note date change) 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 Supervision and Continuing Education Program will meet on Tuesday evenings, March 7 and March 21 from 7 to 9pm. Next month April 4 & April 18.

Souper Seniors Wednesday, March 15 gathering in the Parish Hall following the 12:10pm service. Next month's gathering is Wed, April 19.

Trinity Arts Series presents

THOMASINA - THE CONNECTICUT STATE
TROUBADOUR

Thomasina is a nationally recognized mountain dulcimer player, singer, and song writer whose performances weave together the best of traditional and contemporary folk music. She will be performing at Trinity Episcopal Church in a Celtic Celebration on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 2006 at 7:30pm . Ticket prices are \$15 for preferred seating, \$10 for regular seating, and \$5 for students and children. Call 860 482 4411 to order tickets.

visit their website @

www.trinityartseries.org

Vestry Meeting, Monday, March 20 at 7:30pm in Parish Hall.

Women's EVE-ning Friday, March 24th from 7-9 PM in the Undercroft Chapel

Spring Clean-Up - Saturday, April 1 9:00am. The outside grounds of Trinity are in need of Spring Cleaning. Those able are asked to join fellow parishioners and youth of the Property Committee to volunteer their time and tools. Sign-up in the Parish Hall or call the Parish Office 482-6027.

Rhythms of Grace Sunday, April 2 at 1:00pm in the Chapel.

Vesper Service Sunday, April 2 at 7:00pm

Trinity Knitters Wed April 5 from 1:00 to 3pm in the Rectory Living Room. Next month May 3.

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, April 5.

Men's Breakfast April 9 - 9 to 10:30am Upper Parish

Join fellow Trinitarians for a two night retreat at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York, on the Hudson River. The retreat will begin with 5 pm Vespers on Friday, March 17, and it will end after morning worship on Sunday. The cost (including room and board) is \$170. Call Conrad Sienkiewicz (738-3337) if you need more information.

ATTENTION WALKERS, RUNNERS & ALL TRINITY DOGS:

Lace up your sneakers, fill up your water bottles, pull your leash down off the hook and stand at the kitchen door, wagging your tails...

It's time to train for the BISHOP'S FUND FOR CHILDREN 5K WALK and FUN RUN.

The race is on SATURDAY, MAY 20th at 9 AM in WEST HARTFORD CENTER.

Last year, Trinity had an impressive showing of over 20 walkers/runners and 4 or 5 dogs... let's do it again!

The race is fun- 5 K is just over 3 miles- and the cause is fantastic: helping children at risk in the diocese through after school programs, summer camps tutoring, mentoring and more...

Linda Snyder, our Director of Children's and Youth Ministries and the Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Curate, both serve on the Board of Trustees of the Bishop's Fund for Children... your participation in this event as a walker, runner, or sponsor is greatly appreciated.

KEEP AN EYE PEELED FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION; WE WILL REGISTER TOGETHER AS 'TEAM TRINITY.'

PDF created with pdfFactory trial version www.pdffactory.com

Trinity Church is a proud sponsor of the BFC 5K for Kids... look for our name on the free t-shirts!!

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.

LISTEN!

Each day we are bombarded with messages and sounds to hear: news reports, weather, the radio, the next door neighbor's dog, our teachers, our bosses, the snow blower. Can we hear ourselves think? Can we hear the small, still voice of God in any of it? Or does God have to shout over the din?

This Lent at Trinity we will be engaging in a parish-wide discipline of Listening- to ourselves, to our souls, to each other, and, to the Holy One.

You are invited to come and join in one or all of four Wednesday night sessions that will explore different contexts of listening and that will give us skills to become better listeners. These sessions are described in detail below.

Additionally, we will be intentional about creating brief periods of listening as the regular business of the parish continues- so Men's Breakfast, Women's Eve-ning, the Trinity Knitters, Vestry, Outreach, Property Commission, Choir and others will all share in some communal quiet at the beginning of each meeting.

Our children will have silent prayer in their classes.

And worship will include some gentle moments for reflection. It won't be more time... just a different touch of Grace.

See how it feels.
See what you hear.
See *whom* you hear.
...is that God?

A schedule of the listening sessions is listed below. For more information, talk to the Reverend Audrey Scanlan, Curate. She will gladly listen.

March 15, 2006

7:00-8:30 PM Trinity Rectory Living Room

Introduction to holy listening... what is it?

The basics of being 'present.' Listening to the divine in nature, in ourselves, in one- on- one conversations. Accessing the inner voice of the soul... Making space for the soul message to emerge... Not "what do I want to say," but "what wants to be heard?" Creating an intention.

Co-facilitated by Mary Hart, Stephen Ministries Leader and The Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Curate

March 22, 2006

7:00- 8:30 PM Trinity Rectory Living Room

Listening in Community

Monastic listening as a model, learning how to listen at work, in groups, on committees... hearing the voice of collective wisdom... discerning important messages... reading body language... finding your role in a group... hearing the prophetic voice.

Facilitated by the Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Curate

March 29, 2006

7:00- 8:30 PM Trinity Rectory Living Room

Listening to the Word of God in Holy Scripture

The practice of *Lectio Divina (Holy Listening): lectio, oratio, meditatio, contemplatio*

What does God say to you, today, in scripture?... Receiving the Word...and working with it...You don't need to be a bible scholar to make meaning of the Bible...

Facilitated by The Rev. Ellen Tillotson, Rector

April 5, 2006

7:00-8:30 PM Trinity Church Sanctuary

Liturgical Listening-

Opportunities to receive and make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

How our Sunday worship allows us to hear God in Word, Silence and Music...

The 'blueprint' of the Holy Eucharist... building in time for reflection... communal silence as a way to welcome the Divine... music as prayer. *Co-facilitated by Paul Halley, Director of Music and the Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Curate.*

A Lenten Eve-ning of Listening

Women of the parish and their friends are invited to a special Lenten Eve-ning of Reflection and Listening on Friday, March 24th from 7-9 PM in the Undercroft Chapel.

In keeping with Trinity's Lenten theme of "Listening," we will be sharing- and receiving- stories about ourselves and each other, as well as listening in a new way to some of scripture's 'greatest hits.'

As always, there will be wonderful refreshments and time for fellowship.

Please bring a short poem or song (cd or tape) that tells us something about you.

For more information, or to help with refreshments, call the Parish Office: 482-6027

Altar Flowers/Easter Holiday Memorials The Parish Office will gladly accept your donations for Easter Memorials throughout the season of Lent. 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. Donation envelopes are available in back of church and in the Parish Hall. Donations may be placed in the collection plate or mailed to the Parish Office.

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

Trinity Fundraisers. 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 BETWEEN services to purchase or pick up 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!

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.

Messages from the Outreach Committee..
During the month of March please consider giving a donation to the Summer Fun Club. Thank you for your continued support and caring of our community.

Covenant to Care is looking for small gifts to help make Easter special for local children in need. Our social worker has suggested any type of art supplies (for a range of ages 6 to 12) and fun, puzzle type books (like Mad Libs). Cash donations are great too — We'll do that shopping! Please NO candy or baskets. Please drop off your gifts in the Covenant to care box by Sunday, April 2. Any questions, call Beth Steinberg 361-9137. Thank you for your generosity! The Outreach Committee

Ton of Food -Each year during Lent, The Outreach Committee holds aa Ton-of-Food drive to help fill the shelves of FISH, Inc. Last year FISH, was one of the five area food banks that provided over 310,000 meals to area residents! But they need our help now! So, we have decided to start our Ton-of-Food drive now, and have it continue through Lent. Hopefully, with the extra time, we will be able to gather 2 tons of food! Together, there's no limit to what we can do! Please bag nonperishable food items and paper goods, and bring them to the back of the church. We will weigh each bag, and deliver the collection each week to FISH. If you are interested in helping us weigh, sort, or deliver the food, please sign up. We need you! Thank you very much! Beth Steinberg, Outreach

Celtic Celebration St Patrick's Day, March 17 - 7:30pm THOMASINA - THE CONNECTICUT STATE TROUBADOUR Concert presented by Trinity Arts Series. Ticket prices are \$15 for preferred seating, \$10 for regular seating, and \$5 for students & children. Tickets call 860 482 4411. On Saturday, March 18 the

St. Francis School is offering a St. Patrick's Day Supper from 4:00-7:00p.m Menu is salad, soda bread, corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and carrots, dessert, soda, coffee and tea. Tickets may be purchased at St. Francis School or and at the door - adults \$7.00 seniors & children \$6.00.

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From darkness to light...
Join us for Holy Week

Trinity Episcopal Church
220 Prospect Street
Torrington, CT

Palm Sunday - April 9th 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Joyful procession of palms, dramatic reading of the Passion story

Tenebrae (Wed.)- April 12th 8:00 PM
Candlelight service from ancient monastic tradition

Maundy Thursday - April 13th 8:00 PM
Holy Eucharist, foot washing, stripping of the high altar

Good Friday- April 14th 12:00-3:00 PM
Readings & meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ
Come as your schedule allows.

Easter Eve (Sat.) - April 15th 8:00 PM
The Great Vigil- darkness dispelled by the New Fire of Easter
First Celebration of the Resurrection

Easter Day- April 16th 8:00 & 10:30 AM
A jubilant Jazz Mass with the Easter Ensemble

Fill your senses! Feed your soul!

(860) 482-6027 www.trinitytorrington.org

Parish News

Births

Abigail Katie Underkoffler

Baptisms

No recent Baptisms

Deaths

Ruth Bradshaw, Donald MacBain

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