
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

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Trinity Episcopal Church Newsletter

April 2006

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

As I write this, it is Holy Week, and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you over the next days as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and connect with the saving acts of God on our behalf through our liturgies. This is the most important time of the Christian year, the central constellation of our faith in the God who never abandons us, but seeks even beyond the realm of death to reach us with love and hope and new life.

We've spent some of Lent learning to listen to one another, to the scriptures, to God in quiet, to music and to liturgy. (Our Lenten listening series will have one Easter session as some of the personnel hosting it were down with a bad bug.) I hope that listening will continue to characterize our life together as a parish family. We must always listen to the world around us for direction in our service to God, to one another so that we might build up the community of love that is Trinity Church, to God in silence and in the voice of those different from us so that we don't get our own will confused with God's call to us.

This spring and summer, your Vestry and other members of the parish leadership will embark on a project designed to get us listening—and talking—to one another. We will gather in small groups with a process designed to help us generate ideas for the next phase of Trinity's life. What should we be doing to serve God better? How should we structure our church life so that each member is encouraged to grow in the faith? How can we better welcome newcomers and those seeking spiritual growth into the warmth of our fellowship? How might God be pushing us to greater faithfulness in the financial challenges we are facing? How can we reach more people with the good news of Christ's resurrection?

Watch your mail and other ways we communicate with the parish for your invitation to be a part of this talking and listening process. As we celebrate the new life of Christ, we will find God raising us to new life in turn. As we share that life with others, it deepens and grows. And we will know Him risen indeed. Love,

Ellen

Changes in the finance office at Trinity: Deb Bournival, Trinity's intrepid bookkeeper, took a new job this winter and announced her resignation from us. Two persons are now sharing the bookkeeping at Trinity, Lori Curtis and Mary Comerford, with Lori overseeing the outgoing bills and Mary covering pledges and deposits. Both of them come with strong finance experience—we welcome them to the office. Either they or Melanie Lay can help you if you need some information about your pledge or your giving.

We also have a new Treasurer, as Gary Grant has fulfilled his term of office. Tom Bott has graciously volunteered to shoulder this responsibility for a year or two at the most—we thank Gary for his dedicated service to the parish and Tom for his willingness to come forward again for a challenging ministry.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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

Holy Week and Easter Family and Children Opportunities

There are many opportunities to participate in the life of our community here at Trinity during Holy Week and the Easter Season. All families of children and youth have received a letter detailing the services and events during Holy Week and Easter which are designed to be inclusive

of children and youth. Please take a moment to review the letter and enclosures so you can become familiar with the opportunities for you to enhance you and your family's Easter worship. If you have not received the letter please contact the office and they can email or mail you a copy. Also if you have any questions please feel free to contact the Office.

Church School- There will be no formal church school classes on Easter Sunday but our Easter Rejoicing Program is open to all children. Church School will resume on Sunday, April 23rd as we prepare for our last Fifth Sunday of the program year, on Sunday April 30th. Many classes have already begun to plan, design, and practice their parts in what has become a very meaningful, spirit-filled Sunday worship experience for all ages. Please do plan to attend Church School on the 23rd for our final preparations and April 30th as we celebrate.

Church School Ton of Food Project- In conjunction with the Parish wide Ton of Food our students and their families have been preparing a low cost or meatless meals once a week and collecting canned goods for their class's "pile". As of April 1st, the results are: Preschool, 28 pounds; K-1, 35 pounds; 3rd/4th, 12 pounds; and 5th/6th, 7 pounds plus money. Great job!!

J2A Ton of Food Project- Our J2A pilgrims were given a challenge by a parishioner a short time ago to raise as much money as they could for the Ton of Food drive. In late March the J2A group braved the chilly weather and stood in front of Stop-n-Shop for a little over an hour and collected almost \$182 for food for the hungry!!! All those present have at least one story to tell from the experience! The kids then went back with the money they collected and bought 152# of food! Great Job, Group!!!

Fifth Sunday, April 30th- Our final children and youth led service for this year will take place on Sunday April 30th during the 10:30AM service. As mentioned above preparation for this service has already begun. Each class has an opportunity for active participation in the leadership of this service in the areas listed.

Preschool and K-1- lead us in the communion hymn
2nd/3rd -ushering, decorating, and leading with the
4th/5th recessional hymn

4th/5th- decorating and leading the recessional hymn
Rite 13- to create and lead the Collect ~J2A- to create and lead the Prayers of the People and host a Thank you coffee hour ~YACs-assist with C.S., lectors, and chalice bearers

Again we ask that families make every effort to attend church school on April 23rd so we can prepare for this worship experience on the 30th.

J2A Silent Auction- Our parents group is holding a "Month of April Silent Auction" to benefit the J2A pilgrim's fund each Sunday morning during April. Join us in the upper parish hall each week as we will be adding great new items as the month progresses. We have gift certificates, ski passes, pictures, quilts, and various items for all ages that you can bid on. The auction will continue till coffee hour on Fifth Sunday when items will be distributed. You do not need to be present to win the auction but you do have to bid so join us each week to see what's new and how your bid is going.

Ideas to bring Easter Home for Families: A number of ideas for Holy Week and Easter are available just outside the Church School area for all interested. A few are described below:

Resurrection Rolls

Ingredients~Large Marshmallows, melted butter, cinnamon/sugar mixture (1 tbs sugar to 1 tsp cinnamon), and crescent rolls (Pillsbury)

Directions~Give each child a marshmallow. Tell them it represents Jesus. Have them roll it in the butter. (anointing oil). Then roll it in the cinnamon mixture. (anointing spices)

Place the marshmallow in the crescent roll (the tomb) Roll it up so it is completely sealed. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 mins. When the roll cools, give each child his roll. It's the tomb. The marshmallow will be gone because it melts into the roll. The roll tastes like a cinnamon roll!

A Better Easter Tradition

By Brad Haugaard

Explain the Easter story and then wrap "Jesus" (any toy person) with a tissue paper shroud and place him in the tomb (an open paper bag on its side). Then roll a stone (Brad used a grapefruit) over the entrance to the tomb and placed two soldiers (any two figures) to guard the entrance. Tell your children to come down in the morning and see if Jesus is still in the tomb, or if He has risen. If He has risen, tell them to get you to come and look. Tell them that you will say they made a mistake but they are to keep telling you to come and look. Just a simple little tradition that puts Christ back in Easter!

Egg Carton Cross

Save your egg cartons after coloring your eggs and make an egg carton cross. Cut egg carton into a section of six cups and a section of five cups. Glue the middle cup of the five section piece inside the second cut of the other piece to form a cross shape. Wrap the cross with lace or fabric strips. Decorate with ribbon and silk flowers

Adult Spiritual Formation

Book Discussion Group The following books have been chosen for discussion during the next several 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.

Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult at 7:30pm *Please note that the date for this discussion has been changed to Wed. May 31st.*

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".

New selections to take you into the Fall

Wed. July 5th:

Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson. This Pulitzer Prize winning novel is set in small town Iowa in the 1950's. It takes the form of a letter written by an elderly pastor to his son. John Wood of the N.Y. Times wrote "Gilead is a beautiful work-demanding, grave, lucid."

Thurs. Aug. 31

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro, author of Remains of the Day. This was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize. It concerns cloning for body parts taken to a science fiction level.

Tues. October 17

March by E.L. Doctorow. The reader follows this novel of Sherman's Civil War march to the sea through the eyes of several characters who become transformed by its savagery and destruction.

UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATE

Stephen Ministry Supervision and Continuing Education Program will meet on Tuesday evenings, April 4 & April 18. from 7 to 9pm. Next month May 2 & May 16.

Souper Seniors Wednesday, April 19 gathering in the Parish Hall following the 12:10pm service. Next month's gathering is Wed, May 17.

Vestry Meeting, Monday, April 24 at 7:30pm in Parish Hall.

Women's EVE-ning Friday, April 28 from 7-9 PM in the Undercroft Chapel

Rhythms of Grace Sunday, May 7 at 1:00pm in the Chapel.

Vesper Service Sunday, May 7 at 7:00pm

Trinity Knitters Wed May 3 from 1:00 to 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, May 3.

Men's Breakfast May 13- 9 to 10:30am Upper Parish

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.'

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.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.

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 As Spring arrived bringing us warmer weather, we have concluded our third winter of providing a warm shelter for those in need during the colder months. Again, we thank all of the many Trinity Parishioners who have volunteered to help out with Operation Overflow. We hope you will join us for our Spring potluck at Trinity on April 23 from 2 to 4pm. For more info call Reverend Audrey Scanlan, 482-6027.

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.

Messages from the Outreach Committee..

From darkness to light...

Join us for Holy Week

Trinity Episcopal Church
220 Prospect Street
Torrington, CT

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

No recent births

Baptisms

Caroline Rose Todd, Laura Beth Traves,

Deaths

Nem Telford, Floyd Baldwin

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