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# THE TRINITY MESSENGER

Volume 35, Issue 11

Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington CT

November 2007

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## Letter to the Parish

Dear Friends,

Last week I spent some time planting perennials in my garden for flowering next summer. I'd purchased them on sale, and so they clearly had been waiting in their pots for some time before someone took them home. The plants were all 'pot-bound', with dense roots that came out of the pot and kept their shape. If you are a gardener, you know you have to break up that root formation in order for the plant to be able to 'take' in the soil of the garden. They have to be broken up or else they will not spread out to take nutrients from the soil. It's hard on the roots to do this, but without it the plant won't grow any bigger, and it might even die in the ground of the garden.

For me this was a metaphor for the sabbatical leave I'll be taking this November and continuing next April and May. Time to break up my comfortable routine and my ways of doing my ministry and see what else can grow. November will be spent on retreat (I'll be on the island of Iona in Scotland, reflecting on the nature of God expressed in the 'big five' world religions) and listening to Frank's lectures on history and the Old Testament given at the Divinity School at the University of Edinburgh. I'll spend some time doing some reading and reflecting as well. April and May are still taking shape, and I'm hoping that the time to think and pray this month will raise up the most important and productive avenues of study and growth to pursue then. I'll let you know those ideas when I come back.

Trinity will be well covered on Sundays with three fine priests—Judith Toffey, David Eylers and Carolyn Dukenski. Wednesday services, too, will be covered so can go on uninterrupted—Amy Egan will take a couple of those Wednesdays, and we are still scheduling clergy for the others. Trinity's busy schedule won't miss a beat, and there are wonderful things going on all month.

Meanwhile, this is a good time for all of Trinity Church—all of you—to learn again that a church isn't a building or its clergy, but is the people of God exercising the ministry of Christ with each other and in the community. I'll look forward to hearing your stories when I return, and will keep you in my prayers and thoughts. See you in December.

Love,

Ellen

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**Child Care** begins Sunday mornings at 7:45am in the Nursery and is available throughout all Worship Services.

### 9:00am Family Worship Service

*service is held each Sunday*

*that Church School is in session September thru June.*

This service is designed for families with very young children. In this service the teachings, the songs and the prayers are aimed at the hearts and minds of our youngest members but we all learn something each week; that we are loved by this family of faith and most important, that God loves us as we are. This service runs from 9:00am to 9:30am. This informal celebration of the Eucharist that includes child-friendly prayers, abbreviated lessons and a short homily geared for family reflection. Simple joyful music. Church School follows at 9:30am.

**Church School** Our church school will be completed their first unit Old Testament studies later this month. Our children have enjoyed learning about various figures in the O.T. such as: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Naomi and Ruth, Joshua, Deborah, Samuel, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> we will begin our second units with all grades studying Advent and Christmas for the month of December. Reminder: There is no church school on Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup> but sign up and join us at 9:30AM for the Inter-generational Advent Wreath Making Workshop that morning.

**Journey to Adulthood Youth Program** Although, we are still short a few adult leaders, our J2A groups have been meeting since late Sept. and are engaged in their individual communities. Our Pilgrims have been spending time together creating the community so important to the success of this program. Our YACs have returned from pilgrimage ready to engage in the life of the wider church and to help our pilgrims with their first parent and youth run fundraiser, The Holiday Fair, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. More on that later in this newsletter. The program is in need of one or two woman who would be willing to consider co- leading one of the groups. If you feel called to explore this possibility please speak with Linda Snyder, Roger Coutant, or Conrad Sienkiewicz and we would be happy to discuss the possibility with you.

### The Jesus Storybook Bible

As a fundraiser for the Children's Library we have purchased this storybook at a discount and are able offer a copy to anyone interested at \$15.00 ea. (list price of \$16.99).

This is a wonderful collection of stories from our Adult Bible with beautiful language and illustrations. The books are available in the Upper Parish Hall and would make great Christmas, baptism, or newborn gifts.

#### **Plus**

The author of the book, Sally Lloyd-Jones, will be joining us at the 9:00AM service on Sunday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. She will be reading the Christmas Story from the storybook as the homily that day. After the 9:00AM service she will be in the Upper Parish Hall to sign copies.

### Advent Wreath Workshop

Please sign up in the Upper Parish Hall for our annual Advent Wreath Intergenerational Workshop.

**Sunday Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am.** Donation of \$6.00 is requested for all needed supplies to create a live advent wreath (of course you want to "personalize" your wreath please bring your additional supplies). Booklets will be available to use with your wreath beginning Advent I, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. (child friendly advent wreath activities will also be available)

**Children and Youth Christmas Pageant** Our Christmas Pageant this year will be held on Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> during the Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30 service. All children and youth of the parish are encourage to participate in this ministry. Letters will go out shortly with specifics about casting and instructions for participants. Because of the

"busyness" of the season for parents, we have PDF created with pdfFactory trial version [www.pdffactory.com](http://www.pdffactory.com)

decided to drop one of the rehearsal times. Please see the times and dates below:

Sun. Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 to 1:30	Leads only
Sun. Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 to 1:30	full cast
Sat. Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00-11:00	dress rehearsal

Any adults wishing to help with the direction of the pageant please speak with Linda Snyder or leave a message at the Office. Adults will need to meet once prior to the rehearsals to review the pageant.

### **Adult Spiritual Formation**

**Women's EVE-ing** Women of Trinity and their friends, will meet on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM ,in the Library to learn about Judaism. Our guest will be Brenda, the sister of fellow parishioner Conrad Sienkiewicz. Brenda will be talking about her life and faith conversion. Women of all ages are welcome. We have lively discussion, quiet contemplation, and refreshments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday evening of the month. The Group will not meet during December. We are currently planning our evening of decadence for January and more sedate evenings during lent. Please join us and bring your ideas and thoughts about a topic you would like to discuss.

**Rhythms of Grace** Our service for special needs children, their care-givers and families, continues the first Sunday of the month at 1:00pm in the Undercroft Chapel. Rhythms of Grace is coordinated and celebrated each month by Linda Snyder, our Director of Children's and Youth Ministries; Erik and Helen Ann Landgraf, Special Education Ministers; and a clergy member.

Rhythms of Grace is an ecumenical church experience for all learning types. A place to dance, draw, wiggle and rest in God. We are presently looking for additional adults who might be interested in helping in this ministry. If you might have an interest in this please speak with Linda Snyder or Ellen. Services for the next few months are scheduled on the following Sundays; December 3 and January 6.

**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.

Tues. Nov.13, Year of Wonders: The Plague by Geraldine Brooks set in 1666, this novel follows a young woman's battle to save her fellow villagers, and her soul, when the plague strikes her small town in England.

Wed. Jan 23: 7:30 Girls of a Tender Age: A Memoir by Mary-Ann Tirone Smith "A masterful fiction writer tells her own story: one girl dies, the other comes of age and gives voice to herself and her murdered friend. Riveting, heartbreaking, hilarious, I loved this book for its flashes of justifiable anger. A life affirming read." (Wally Lamb)

**Questions and Theology** This group is open to anyone interested in exploring what's new in the talk of God and God's action in The World. The next meeting date is to be determined. Please prepare by reading *The Phoenix Affirmations* by Eric Elnes.

**Lenten Retreat** has been booked for the week-end of March 07-09, 2008 at the Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY. Cost is \$ 194 per person which includes a guided program. We need a minimum of 8 participants. Those interested in attending please RSVP to the Parish Office by submitting a check payable to Trinity Church in the amount of \$35.00 (a non-refundable deposit) with balance due on or before January 20, 2008. For questions regarding this Retreat please call Conrad at 738-3337.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATE

**Trinity Fundraiser Scrip Pre-Paid Cards..** Order your cards BETWEEN worship services in the Upper Parish Hall, or DURING THE WEEK by visiting the Parish Office. If you're able to help in this effort, speak to Tammy Randall or The Rector.

**Stephen Ministry** Supervision and Continuing Education Program will meet on Tuesday evenings. The Fall meeting schedule will be distributed shortly.

**Trinity's annual Holiday Fair** is Saturday, November 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Upper Parish Hall. Proceeds benefit our Journey To Adulthood pilgrimage and mission activities. The fair features area crafters, tea cup auctions and used book/video/CD sales. Enjoy a cup of coffee with a tasty treat from the bake sale table available throughout the day or try a light bite to eat at our Christmas Café which operates from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can also help by donating CDs, videos and books for our book sale table,

large baskets for our teacup auction, or baked goods for our bake sale table. For more information, contact Kathi Boratko at (860) 693-3474. Crafters wishing to purchase table space at our fair may contact Jane Serafini @ 307-9110. Thank you for your continued support.

**Christmas Angelicus... *the sound of Christmas that has become a New England tradition.*** Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus directed by Nicholas White and joined by actor John McDonough will present Christmas Angelicus in five beautiful churches and chapels in Connecticut. Carols and hymns - traditional, original and contemporary - are interspersed with readings- sacred, comic and profound for a unique, poignant, and joyous celebration of Christmas.

December 8 7:00pm *Simsbury United Methodist*

December 9 4:00pm *1st Congreg Church, Washington*

December 15 7:00pm *St. Michaels, Litchfield*

December 16 4:00pm *Hotchkiss School Chapel, Lakeville*

December 23 4:00pm & 7:00pm *here at Trinity Torrington*

**Order your tickets early!** 888-788-8882

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

General Admission - \$25 \*\* Priority \$ 40 \*\* Student \$ 15 \*\* Student Priority \$ 20

#### Saturday, November 10

9:00am to 3pm **Holiday Fair Upper Parish**

#### Sunday, November 11

7:00pm **Evensong Service - Church**

#### Monday, November 12 **Veteran's Day**

7:00pm **Property Committee Mtg - LR**

#### Tuesday, November 13

7:00pm **Stephen Ministry - J2A Room**

7:30pm **Book Group**

#### Wednesday, November 14

6:00pm **Altar Guild POTLUCK UP**

#### Thursday, November 15

6:30pm **Trinity Arts Series Mtg - LR**

#### Friday, November 16

7:00pm **Women's EVE-ning Library**

#### Saturday, November 17

9:00am **Men's Breakfast Upper Par**

#### Monday, November 19

7:30pm **Vestry Meeting Upper Parish**

#### Sunday, November 25

9:30am **Advent Wreath Making- UP**

#### Tuesday, November 27

7:15pm **Care of Creation Meeting - LR**

## HERE AT TRINITY

**Parish reminder...** please keep your pledge giving up to date. Currently, we are behind and rely on your support to cover expenses.

**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](mailto:trinity.parish.house@snet.net).

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.

**Parishioner Contact information:** Marine Gabe Grant has been deployed to the Middle East. To say your "Hello's" or to wish him a "Happy Birthday" (Nov 8) you may email or write to his address below:

LCpl Gabriel Grant  
3/2 I CO (3rd Plt 2nd Squad)  
UNIT 73095  
FPO AE 09509-3095

E-mail: [gabriel.pfc.grant@gmail.com](mailto:gabriel.pfc.grant@gmail.com)

We remember and pray also for Mike Davis another Trinity young person, who is in the Navy.

**Lectionary change:** at the General Convention of 2006, the Episcopal Church voted to join much of the rest of Christendom in using the Revised Common Lectionary for our Sunday schedule of readings. This will present an opportunity to hear Scripture in some new combinations, and to hear portions of the Old Testament we haven't heard in Sunday worship. Free copies of the lectionary—the list of readings—can be obtained at the following web link: [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/19625\\_21607\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/19625_21607_ENG_HTM.htm)

**Our neighbors:** Several individuals and groups share our beautiful buildings with us. Trinity is a good steward of its space, using it to do God's work in a variety of ways. Here is a list of those who share our space, some for a requested contribution, others for what they can afford (the 12-step groups are in this PDF created with pdfFactory trial version [www.pdffactory.com](http://www.pdffactory.com)

latter category). The place is busy with good works. Currently we house: Hope Payson, Drug and Alcohol Counselor; Peter Padillo, Counselor; Torrington Affordable Housing; Community Soup Kitchen; Joyful Noise; Waterbury Health Department Aids Program Torrington Area Satellite Office; AA Groups (Monday Evening, Wednesday Evening, Saturday Morning; Family Violence Program (Tuesday Evening); NA Groups (Thursday and Saturday Evenings); and Operation Overflow Shelter (on needed evenings mid November thru December).

**Continental Breakfast offered** following our three (3) worship services.

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."* Hebrews 13:2



This is an extremely important ministry as you are one of the first "welcoming" elements for our family members or a newcomer on Sunday mornings.

Continental Breakfast is being offered following our three (3) Worship Services.

We are in need of Host/Hostesses to make coffee and set-up the prepared items following our 8am and 10:30am Worship Services.

Duties and Instructions follow.

Staple items will be readily available for the Host/Hostess to plate and present. They can be found either on the kitchen counters or in the Parish Hall refrigerator; generally they are: bagels, cream cheese, butter, peanut butter/jelly and fresh fruit.

Host/Hostesses of Coffee Hour are asked to bring baked goods; options may be coffee cakes, cookies, cup cakes, specialty breads etc. and are responsible to make coffee and clean up afterwards. There are ziplock bags, plastic wrap and foil available in or above the drawer to the left of the refrigerator.

Instructions for making the coffee are posted on the Kitchen Cabinet closest to the coffee maker. Coffee items, sugar, creamer etc are supplied and are in the refrigerator or the storage cabinet.

The Sign up Sheet to be Host/Hostess are in the Upper Parish Hall.

Those that sign up for the 8am are asked to prepare offerings by the end of the service so that those exiting the Church service or arriving for the 9am service will find them available.

Those that sign up for 10:30am are asked to prepare offerings by the end of the service. Items left over from the earlier services will also be offered at this time. These individuals are also responsible for final clean up of coffee, dishes, and foods. Food items that can be saved should be placed in plastic bags or containers and placed in refrigerator/freezer.

Being a coffee hour Host/Hostess takes little effort other than asking you to arrive a little earlier to prepare for your guests and to supply a few baked goods.

Won't you consider this fun rewarding opportunity to mingle with fellow worshipers and to offer hospitality to one another. Please sign up! Sign up sheet in Upper Parish Hall.

**Altar Flowers** Please consider giving altar flowers! The donation is \$25 per Sunday and sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. Please contact the Parish office, 482-6027 for available dates. Your gifts of flowers will keep the altar looking beautiful throughout the year.

**Parishioner Parking Stickers** - Did you know we have them???? Although, you may only park in our Parking lot to attend Sunday Worship, during the week our parking lot is used by the public when they choose not to use the street meter parking while attending their class at the YMCA or doing their errands in town. To assist us in the monitoring of the lot and to ensure available parking for our Parishioners during the week, we encourage you to obtain a Parking Sticker by contacting the Parish Office, 482-6027 or [pick one up at Sunday Coffee Hour.](#)

**Stephen Ministry Corner** "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galations 6:2

We all experience challenges in life-times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty. We have a group of trained

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Stephen Ministers that are ready to give caring, confidential care to someone in the church and/or community that needs a non-judging, prayerful individual to walk with them in times of trouble or confusion. Their identity will remain confidential, what takes place in the caring relationship remains private. Jane St. Pierre and Mary Hart are Stephen leaders and would be happy to provide information on Stephen Ministry to those who would like a Stephen Minister, would like to become a Stephen Minister or just want more information on the program in general. Please talk to them sometime-they welcome all inquiries! Their contact information is available through the Trinity office. Look for more information monthly in the Stephen Ministry Corner!

**Prayer Chain** The Prayer chain at Trinity is a list of first names that are prayed for each day by a group of individuals that have committed to this ministry. There are three team captains, who are kept updated by the Prayer Chain Leader, Nancy Skilton. The coordinator is Melanie at the Parish Office. Melanie maintains the list, notifies the leader, clergy, and Stephen Ministry leaders of any additions to the list. Names are kept on the list for one month. If a name should be on the list for an extended period, please contact Melanie or Nancy. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Nancy at 806-567-5832 or via her email - [nskilton@snet.net](mailto:nskilton@snet.net) or Melanie at the Parish Office, 860-482-6027. This is a quiet confidential ministry that supports our parish life and caring for each other.

**Landscape Beautification** As Trinity Church approaches our 166<sup>th</sup> year on the same corner of Water and Prospect Streets, we would like to create a new more beautiful landscape for our church home. To begin this beautification project we would like to implement the landscape plan drawn up for us a few years ago.

This plan for re-landscaping our common areas include a mix of deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees, bulbs and perennials.

This landscape plan, drawn up by a local landscape architect will provide a welcome facelift for our beautiful buildings. The plan provides four season elements, which will make our church vibrant all year long and highlight the architectural beauty for our buildings. Included in the plan are flowering shrubs and trees as well as berrying varieties for winter accent. These are lilacs, hydrangeas, winter berry holly varieties, evergreen box woods and shrubs, redbud trees, bulbs and flowering perennials. The effect will be to instill color and variety to replace the evergreen yew plantings which are greatly overgrown around our buildings now.

This plan has been divided into 8 separate projects in the

hope that we will be able to take donation for individuals and family memorials to complete a section at a time. We will be relying on parishioners, volunteering time to do the labor as well, thereby drastically reducing the cost of the projects. We all will have a hand in the beautifying project and will have a stake in making our corner of the city come into bloom. We would like to begin these projects, starting on the Prospect Street side of the building, at the Rectory and church entrances, in the Spring. We will then work around the Water Street side, where most labor intensive parts of the projects are.

Please look forward to more information, updates, and requests for help during the Fall, Winter and Spring. There is a large diagram of the projects assembled which will be displayed in the Parish Hall. There also will be presentations on the projects and updates on the progress of our beautification drive in the Messenger and announcements during Church services as the project moves ahead.

Please consider making a memorial donation for plants, and/or donation of time to help us do the physical labor we will need to make our corner bloom. With God's grace and help, we can bring our church into our second century in a newly landscaped garden setting.

**CDS FOR CHRISTMAS** featuring Paul Halley, Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus. The latest Christmas release from Pelagos Music, *What Child Is This?*, has received rave reviews from Gramophone Magazine, Choral Journal, American Record Guide, Sacred Music, and many others. Order this, or any other CDs in the Pelagos catalogue, before December 25th to receive free shipping on orders of 2 or more CDs. Also, if you buy 5 CDs, you will receive a 6th one free! Great gifts for Thanksgiving or Christmas. CDs will be on sale at the Trinity Holiday Fair on November 10th. You may also order by phone: 877-PELAGOS.

**Help wanted:** There are many ministries at Trinity that need creative minds and willing hands. They include: Treasurer (Tom Bott is in his second year of an 'interim' position and wants and needs out!), Eucharistic Visitors, Ushers, Coffee Hour volunteers, Greeters, an Acolyte Trainer and Shepherd, SCRIP program workers, Stephen Ministers, Youth Advisors/Teachers, Outreach committee members. Is there something you think we should be doing more of or differently? Call Ellen to have a conversation, or find someone already doing that ministry and ask how you can help.

## Trinity Arts Series 2007 - 2008 Season

*Saturday, January 5, 2008*

Three Kings Day celebration with St. Luke's Steel Band from New Haven.

*Saturday, April 19, 2008*

An evening of Gershwin music played by pianist Paul Bisaccia

*Saturday, May 10, 2008*

A concert on Trinity's outstanding organ by Nicholas White, Trinity's Organist & Director of Music.

## Messages from Caring for Creation...

### Caring For Creation Corner

Trinity has an active group of parishioners concerned about the environment, dedicated to opening our eyes to all the ways we can become responsible stewards of God's creation. Please join us to find out how you as an individual or Trinity as a congregation can make a difference on how we impact our Mother Earth. The Caring for Creation Committee is meeting on **Tuesday, November 27 at 7:15** in the Church living room. All are invited to attend our meetings.

### Report of Activities sponsored by Caring for Creation

Last month the Caring for Creation Team held a Book/Bake Sale to raise money for a speaker, the Rev. Mary Gates. We not only raised that money but also \$200.00 *in addition* to the cost of her honorarium. With that the committee voted to spend about one third on books devoted to the topic of caring for the earth for our library, and about two thirds on paying for weather stripping and insulation that is needed to reduce our use of fossil fuels heating our buildings. We thank all who supported this event, donating books, etc., baking goodies, attending the Sale and buying books! It was both fun and profitable.

The same day as the Book Sale, a dedicated group of workers were applying to our church building some of the lessons learned in "This Old House of Worship" seminars in energy conservation. Fireplaces were sealed, doors were weather stripped and hot water heating pipes were

insulated. This committee has been vigilant in its efforts to make our building more energy efficient, as well as to raise the awareness of the parish to the urgency of our individual attempts to live "greener" and thereby help preserve our planet.

When the Rev. Mary Gates came, a week or so later, there was a group of about 14 for the soup and salad supper held before her presentation. After the meal, we gathered in the comfortable library area to hear her lead us in prayer and a meditation about the earth. She brought up the word "sacrifice" and suggested that we need to use this when we think about how we live and what we take from the earth. Her presentation was spiritual, interlaced with prayers. It was also experiential. Mary asked us to visualize our ancestors and their relationship with the created world as well as our descendants and the environment that we will pass on to them. She was practical, focusing on one area in which we can make a difference; food (one third of the oil used in this country is related to the production and distribution of food). We can buy locally and make an effort to eat produce according to the season. She reminded us of how interconnected everything on earth is. The species which are dying because of habitat loss do indeed effect us. We are part of the web of life. In the bible, we are asked to protect god's creation. It is a spiritual mandate. Rev. Mary Gates gave us hope, but reiterated the urgency to act now in our own small ways and to call for action from those in power.

**Green Tip...** *Did you know that one kid's average school lunch generates 67 pounds of waste over a year?*

Reuse containers and reduce waste.

Help to reduce waste when you pack your lunch: put sandwiches, small fruit, snacks, and other food in reusable containers, preferably glass; put juice or water in a reusable bottle; and put metal utensils, a cloth napkin, and your food and drink in a long-lasting reusable lunch bag or box.

*(Tip borrowed from "Friends of the National Zoo Newsletter")*

## Parish News

### Deaths

Rebecca Wheeler

*Peter Cirkot*

*Claudia Beres*

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

