

---

# THE TRINITY MESSENGER

Volume 35, Issue 12

Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington CT

December 2007

---

## Letter to the Parish

Dear Friends,

The first leg of my sabbatical is complete, and I'm glad to be back at Trinity for this wonderful time of year here. Frank and I spent two weeks in Scotland, where he was giving a series of lectures on Church History (one of his many fields of study). I spent five days on retreat on the island of Iona, one of the foundational sites of Celtic Christianity (which made a major contribution to the Episcopal flavor of Christian theological understanding). Iona is a magical place with a long history of Christian witness. I will always remember my time there, and being asked to celebrate the Eucharist while on retreat there was a real highlight. Since we were tied to Edinburgh by Frank's lecture obligations, I spent some time walking around the city, visiting churches there and thinking about our location in a busy downtown and how we might claim more boldly our mission to the world in which God has set us.

My time also gave me the space to plan the next leg of my sabbatical, which I will take in April and May this year. Those plans are still taking shape, though I know I want to work on looking at innovative things that churches are doing in other parts of the country, churches which face many of the same challenges that Trinity does. I also have a personal and ministerial related project to work on (I'm not quite ready to talk about it yet), and I would like to try some new styles of preaching. I certainly won't have time to do all of that in two months, but can make a beginning.

Most of all, I got some much needed perspective on my call as a priest, my work as your Rector and the deeper life of the Spirit who feeds and sustains me. I am profoundly grateful for the time, and for those who took care of Trinity while I was gone.

Now we careen into the Christmas season, with the wonder and awe of Advent and the warm and joyful ways that we celebrate God's presence among us and in the creation during this time of year. We have many challenges at Trinity, but I do believe that there is nothing that we can't face together in love and hard

work and support. This comes with my prayers for a season of light and joy for each Trinity family and friend, and my 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.

The author of [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#), Sally Lloyd-Jones, joined our 9:00AM service on Sunday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, reading the Christmas story from her storybook as the homily that day. After the 9:00AM service she signed copies of her book in the Upper Parish Hall. It was a unique chance for our families to experience the Advent/Christmas story read first hand by the author of the book. It was well attended and all involved enjoyed the experience. Look for pictures of the event on our website shortly.

**Family Resources-** All families are encouraged to check out the Advent Family Resources on the parent's table just outside the Church School for some ideas about how to "wait" and "prepare" during the Advent Season for the birth of the Christ Child.

**Church School-** Our second unit of the Episcopal Church Curriculum is underway with the first five classes dealing with Advent and the Christmas Story. This will take our classes through Epiphany. All the students have received a mite box for The Bishop's Fund for Children to be used through until Epiphany when we will present them as our gift to the Christ Child as The Three Kings presented their gifts so long ago.

**REMINDER-** There IS CHURCH SCHOOL AND 9:00AM SERVICE 12/23, the day of the pageant. There is NO CHURCH SCHOOL on 12/30 but there will be a 9:00am SERVICE. Church School will resume on Sunday Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> (Epiphany).

**J2A Program-** Our Pilgrims of 2010 and their parents held their first Holiday Fair fund-raiser on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. They were able to net just under \$2,000.00. Thanks to all the parishioners of Trinity who help by contributing to fair items or who came and purchase items from our vendors. A special thanks goes to the YAC group who help from setup to cleanup! Great Job!!

**Epiphany Party-** Our church school will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Epiphany Celebration as Church School resumes on Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup> during our regular Church School time. We will be exploring the story of Epiphany and the visit of the Three Wise Men as well as looking at celebrations from around the world for this day. Please remember to bring your child's mite box that day.

**Rehearsals for this year's Christmas Pageant** on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 10:30AM service have been combined so there are now only 2 times to rehearse:

**for the leads-**12/21 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM and **for all (nonleads and leads)-**one mandatory dress rehearsal, 12/22 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. Please speak to a church school teacher, Ellen, or Linda if you would like to take a part.

**Confirmation classes for teens** will be beginning shortly. The Diocese of Connecticut requires that all teens presented for confirmation be at least 16 years of age or have completed the second two years of The Journey to Adulthood Program. If you have a teen that is interested in this class and fits into one of these categories please call the Office and register.

### **Adult Spiritual Formation**

**Women's EVE-ing** will not meet in December. In January they will have a evening of Decadence on January 18, 2008. This is an evening of fun, fellowship, and decadent desserts and snacks before Lent. All women are welcome and are asked to bring a decadent food to share. We usually have a collection to defray the costs of any supplies we might use (In the past we

have created a hoop mandala, candle holders, and beaded bookmarks.).

There will be more information in the January Messenger. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us at 7:00 pm in the Library.

### **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. Our next service is Sunday, 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.

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)

Tues. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>: Special Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl. This novel of a precocious young girl and her widowed father, an itinerant professor, was one of the N.Y. Times' 10 best books of the year. It revolves around literary discussions between the two as they travel, each chapter being titled after a book or author. There is mystery too as the girl's favorite teacher is found dead on page one. One reviewer called it "an exhilarating synthesis of the classic and the modern...that will leave the reader salivating for more."

Tues. April 1<sup>st</sup>: The Master by Colm Toibin. A "hybrid" of biography and fiction concerning the author Henry James,

this was chosen as one of the 10 best books of the year by The Book Review.

Tues. May 13<sup>th</sup>: Snow by Orhan Pamuk. The protagonist, in this seventh novel from Turkey's beloved author, returns to Turkey after an absence of 12 years and explores his country's "divided soul" by investigating a wave of suicides in a small village among young girls who were forbidden to wear their headscarves. Reviewer Margaret Atwood called it "an engrossing feat of tale-spinning" and "essential reading for our times".

Date to be announced: What is What by Dave Eggers. This is a retelling in novel form of the story of one of the lost boys who escaped the violence of his small village in the Sudan and finally made his way to the U.S. The N.Y. Times' reviewer said "The considerable appeal of Valentino's (the hero) personality and the force of Eggers's talent turn this eyewitness account of a terrible tragedy into a paradoxically pleasurable experience...An eloquent testimony to the power of storytelling, "What is What" is an extraordinary work of witness and of art."

**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 schedule for our next few meetings are: January 8, January 29; February 19; March 11.

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

December 16 4:00pm Hotchkiss Chapel, Lakeville

December 23 4:00pm & 7:00pm 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

**Chorus Angelicus Training Choirs & Juniors Choir** invite you to their annual **Winter Concert**, Monday, December 17 at 7:00pm. There is no admission charge for this event. Please bring your friends.

**Here at Trinity...**

**Monday, December 17**

7:00pm Training Choir CONCERT

7:30pm Vestry Meeting - Living Room

**Wednesday, December 19**

12:10pm Holy Eucharist Healing Service

12:30pm Souper Seniors Upper Parish Hall

**Friday, December 21**

6:00pm Rehearsal Christmas Pageant

**Saturday, December 22**

9:00am Rehearsal Christmas Pageant

**Sunday, December 23 Christmas Pageant**

10:30am Christmas Pageant

4:00pm Chorus Angelicus Concert

7:00pm Chorus Angelicus Concert

**Monday, December 24 Christmas EVE**

5:30pm Family Eucharist with Carols

10:30pm Festal Eucharist with musical Prelude beginning at 10:00pm

**Tuesday, December 25 Christmas DAY**

10:00am Holy Eucharist with Hymns

**Sunday, December 30**

4:00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

**Thursday, January 3**

6:30pm Trinity Arts Series Mtg LR

**Saturday, January 5**

7:30pm Trinity Arts Event-3 Kings Day & Steel Band

Sunday, January 6 Church School resumes

7:00pm Epiphany Vespers

**Men's Breakfast Group...** Gathering on Saturday, January 12 at 9am in the Upper Parish Hall. We'll eat a hot egg breakfast, compare resolutions, and take a look at the new year. Come join us.

### 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" 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 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).

**Christmas 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. Envelopes are available in back of church & in Parish Hall. Donations may be placed in the collection plate or mailed to the Parish Office.

**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.

**Operation Overflow Shelter desperate for Overnight Volunteers** ...This a shelter that opens in the winter months when the FISH shelter on South Main Street is full. Since the shelter opened we need numerous men and women overnight volunteers to spend evenings with our guests. New Volunteers will be trained prior to their assigned evening. Monetary donations are also needed. Checks may be written to Operation Overflow and forwarded C/O Trinity Church, 220 Prospect Street, Torrington 06790. Call the Parish

Office 482-6027 for more information.

**Gift Sponsors Needed for Three Kings Day Celebration** Saturday, Jan 5, 2008 we will be celebrating Three Kings Day with the local Hispanic community. Part of the Hispanic tradition is for the Three Kings to give gifts to the children. We plan to do this after the performance of the St. Luke's Steel Band. We are asking parishioners to sponsor a child at \$5 each or a family at \$25. so we can purchase identical gifts for the children by age group. You become a gift sponsor by placing your check and/or envelope marked "3 Kings Day Gift Sponsor " in the collection plate, or sending it to the church office. Your contribution will be recorded in your quarterly giving statement. Thanks for your anticipated generosity.

**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 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.

**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, 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.

PDF created with pdfFactory trial version [www.pdffactory.com](http://www.pdffactory.com)

## 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, January 29 at 7:15** in the Church living room. All are invited to attend our meetings.

### A shared thought from Care for Creation...

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's day, Americans throw away a million extra tons [900,000 metric tons] of garbage each week, including holiday wrapping and packaging, according to Robert Lilienfeld. Lilienfeld is co-author of the book *Use Less Stuff: Environmental Solutions for Who We Really Are*. So why not recycle holiday gift wrap? Lilienfeld, who has published a newsletter on reducing waste since 1996, notes that if every family reused just 2 feet [0.6 meter] of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles [61,000 kilometers] of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.

And not all gifts need wrapping. "Think back to your three favorite holiday memories," Lilienfeld said. "I'm willing to bet that they all involve time you spent with your family and friends."

*(Borrowed from National Geographic News)*

### Green Tips for December...

**12/ 2** --- Consider a new slant for Advent: Change one light bulb each Sunday of Advent to a CFL. It is like lighting a candle each week

**12/9**--- Think global, buy local. Support your local Christmas tree farms.

**12/16**--- Resist using Styrofoam products. They hang around long after you have thrown them away.

**12/23**--- Save on gas: Patronize your local merchants. Combine driving errands. Carpool whenever possible

**12/30** --- Check the labels when purchasing clothing. Avoid buying/using clothing which require dry cleaning.

Parish News

**Deaths**

Beverly Cardona

Clayton Rogers

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