
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

Volume 36, Issue 1

Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington CT

January 2008

Letter to the Parish

Dear Friends,

A month ago, when I came back from the first leg of my sabbatical, I wrote sketchily about my time, I know. Partly that is because what really happened was a much-needed rest, and it's hard to describe the components of that in a way that sounds enriching and lively! I also wrote about how moving it was for me to celebrate the Eucharist on Iona, one of the earliest sites of the Christian movement in the British Isles. My time on Iona continues to resonate in my being, and I find myself sustained by the natural and wild beauty of that island.

There are two other things that I observed in Scotland that have stayed with me, two services I attended which moved me deeply. One of them was a healing service held by the Iona Community. It was led simply by members of the community, lay folk, with guitar music and a ritual of healing in which those who desired prayer and those doing the praying were the same people—all of us. As the healing portion of the service went on, the congregation passed a small candle around the room. If one desired prayers for healing, one simply held the candle still. Then the people sitting nearest placed a hand on the shoulder of the person with the candle, and the entire congregation (there were about 35 or so of us) said the prayer of healing. No one person was leading or presiding; though some members of the community were guiding the worship, all were asking God's presence for each in turn.

The other service took place at Roslyn Chapel, outside Edinburgh, most famous for its appearance in the movie *The DaVinci Code*. Rosslyn has an Episcopal congregation composed of people from the local community. Presumably they have a priest assigned to their congregation, but each day, in the presence of hordes of tourists, people from the congregation offer

prayers at noon in the Chapel/Church. They pray for peace and for the healing of the world. People are encouraged to leave prayer requests at Rosslyn, and those prayers are offered by the few tourists and the members of the congregation there gathered. Again, this was a lay-led service, performed by committed Christians who take the life of Christ to those whom God brings to their doors each day.

At Rosslyn, I found myself reflecting on Trinity, and our place in the Torrington community. I thought of our Wednesday Eucharist, which is often attended by more people from the community than it is by Trinity members. I thought of the faith that we hold and how reluctant we are to share that faith, and the real confidence that these Scottish Christians exhibited in offering such services to fellow pilgrims on life's way.

We live in an age when 'consumer religion' is rampant, when it can be deceptively easy to come to church seeking only to be filled. But the Christian walk is a way of service to others; you can't really know the depths of following Jesus until you reach out with his love to the hurting world. We're all a part of that hurting world and yet, somehow, our faith in Christ and our experience of his presence in our common life should make us bold in sharing that love more openly.

In the weeks of Epiphany, my sermons are going to focus on a good Epiphany theme: the manifestation of Christ to the world. How do we 'show' Jesus in our living and in our words? How might we deepen our own faith by taking the risk of reaching out to someone else? How do we make our own time together at Trinity more welcoming, more proclaiming of God's news of inclusive love? Some of what I'll preach about will be personal. Some of it will have to do with our life as a parish. All of it will come from a vision of what God is calling us to do and to be as Christians and as a parish. I will welcome your comments and your conversation. This comes with my prayers for a peaceful and meaningful New Year for us all, and with 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.

Church School Our church school program resumed with a wonderful Epiphany Celebration including, the completion of the Christmas story and season with the arrival of the three wise men to Bethlehem, stars, a three kings cake (actually cupcakes), caroling, and a "visit" by the three kings to each child with candy and fruit. Also during this program we began the collection of the Advent mite boxes. If you were not able to attend or forgot your mite box please bring it in with you in the next few weeks and we will combine it with our others. Classes will continue as usually during January (9:30AM-10:20AM) with the exception of Annual Meeting **Sunday (1/27)** when we will have shortened classes beginning at **9:00AM and running to 9:30AM** with a combined service at 9:30AM

Themes for Sunday Lessons until Lent: The Parables
Grades K-2

The Mustard Seed Grows into a Bush

The Lost Coin Was Found

The Lost Sheep is Safe

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

Grades 3rd/4th

Being Forgiven-Prodigal Son

Being a Neighbor to Others- Good Samaritan

Welcoming All People-Parable of the Banquet

Grades 5th/7th

Parable of the Sower

Parable of the Vineyard Workers

Parables of Treasure

The House upon a Rock

As we begin Lent next month all three classes will begin a study of the Eucharist.

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for January:

1/13-Heather Grustas, 1/20-The Nadles,

1/25-Nancy DeVore

Please refer to your nursery letter to switch dates with another volunteer.

Journey to Adulthood Youth Program

Super Bowl Chili Sale Time!!

As is the custom for many years, our J2A Pilgrims (and this year our YACs) will be selling their famous Super Bowl Chili for pick up on Sunday, Feb. 3. The group will be in the Upper Parish Hall for orders beginning Sunday Jan 13th. Please stop by, check out the different varieties available, and place your orders! All funds will go to the J2A pilgrimage in 2010 and the YAC mission trip.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Women's EVE-ing In January they will have an 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.).

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, February 3.

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. 26th: 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 1st: 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 13th: 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

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.

Women's EVE-ing an evening of Decadence on Friday, January 18 at 7:00pm in the Library.

Annual Parish Meeting, Sunday, January 28

9:30am Combined Worship- Holy Eucharist

11:15am Annual Parish Meeting - Church

11:15am Child Care continues during Parish Mtg

Stephen Ministry Supervision and Continuing Education Program will meet on Tuesday evenings. The schedule for

our next few meetings are: January 29; February 19; March 11.

HERE AT TRINITY

Parish reminders...

Pledge cards ... Please submit your pledge card for 2008. Pledge cards are available in the back of church or call the parish office 482-6027.

Pledge envelopes...are in the back of church for those parishioners requesting envelopes. In the event you do not find yours please contact the parish office 482-6027.

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.

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:

Note: **Gabe has a NEW e-mail address below:**
E-mail: grant.gabriel.lcp@hotmail.com

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

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

Confirmation class for teens 16 and older begins January 13 at 9:30am. Future classes to be scheduled then.

Adults wishing to join the Episcopal Church through confirmation or be received by the Bishop should contact Ellen personally. A class will begin soon.

Are any of Trinity's groups looking for a fund-raiser?

With Ash Wednesday coming on the heels of the J2A Super Bowl Chili fund-raiser (three days later) our pilgrims have decided not to hold the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper this year. So.... if there is a committee or group who would like to take this over I'm sure there are many who would like a fun party and pancakes just before the solemn Lenten Season. Please call the office 482-6027 if you are interested so we can pass on information we have from the past suppers.

Safe Church Training Workshop Trinity will be hosting a Diocesan Safe Church Training on Saturday, February 9 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Continental Breakfast and lunch will be served. This workshop is a requirement for anyone presently working with our children and youth or who might be interested in this ministry in the near future. If this is the case we strongly suggest you attend this workshop. Please call Trinity to register.

Camera Bug...Trinity is seeking someone who loves to take pictures and is willing to provide Trinity with photo memories of parish/community events and our Special Worship services (ie 5th Sunday, Pageant Sunday, Palm Sunday etc, .) If you are interested please contact the Parish Office, 482-6027.

Three Kings Day Celebration Thanks to every one who helped make our 3 Kings Day a great success. We had a packed house. The music was great. The audience was dancing in the aisles. The audience was well mixed with Anglos and Hispanics. The reception and food was beautifully laid out and delicious. We had welcome financing of the event. All in all a real plus for the Trinity Arts Series.

Trinity Fund-raiser 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 Lydia Babbitt.

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.

PDF created with pdfFactory trial version www.pdffactory.com

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.

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

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 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!

Trinity Arts Series 2007 - 2008 Season

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

PDF created with pdfFactory trial version www.pdffactory.com

Green Tips for January...

Did you know: About 40% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. Find commuting partners and enjoy commuting [incentives](#) through NuRide. Check out <http://www.nuride.com> to see how it works.

Did you know: Until July 1, 2017, CT residents qualify for a \$500 rebate by purchasing and installing replacement Energy Star natural gas furnaces or boilers and propane or oil furnaces and boilers that are > 84% efficient?

Recycling reuses resources, saves energy, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Contact your town public works department or [DEP](#) to find out how you can recycle more, compost and prevent waste.

Buy canvas bags that most supermarkets sell. Stop using zillions of plastic or paper bags for groceries. Carry a small one canvas tote or a used plastic bag for smaller purchases, and keep it in the car for errands. (*Borrowed from MSNBC 2007 interactive green tips*)

Adjust your water heater. If you lower the thermostat on your hot-water heater from about 145 degrees to 120 degrees, the change isn't likely to be noticeable. This step could save you more than \$20 a year if you heat water with gas and more than \$50 if your water heater is electric. (*Borrowed from MSNBC 2007 interactive green tips*)

Don't drive so fast. Driving your vehicle 55 mph instead of 65 mph can improve your mileage by about 15 percent and reduce emissions considerably. You'll also get better mileage if you avoid quick starts and sudden braking whenever you can, and if you keep your tires properly inflated to the maximum recommended pressure. (*Borrowed from MSNBC 2007 interactive green tips*)

Map out your errands. Do multiple errands on the same morning or afternoon and plan out your trip ahead of time. Consolidate drives to locations that are close to each other. If possible, park your car in one spot and walk when you get there. (*Borrowed from MSNBC 2007 interactive green tips*)

Parish News

Baptisms - Sunday January 13

Bayle Grace Hoehne

Megan Susannah Curi