



Messenger

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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June and July 2016

Sabbatical

Save The Date!

The 109th Trinity Annual Fair is September 10th.

Something old and something new... fresh new ideas, traditional venues with a twist, more fun!

Watch for news and updates!

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I am immensely grateful that the Vestry has supported and helped to make arrangements for a sabbatical leave for me this summer. Peter and I will be spending July through September in Scotland. Sabbatical time is defined as a period of refreshment and reflection for clergy (and other professions as well). A sabbatical generally includes an educational component, which mine will. I have chosen a residential seminar for contemplative learning from the Celtic Christian tradition called the Céile Dé. The time will be spent in silence, meditation, and learning, as well as time out in the beautiful presence of God in nature. For the rest of the time, Peter and I will be exploring the Scottish countryside, visiting places like Iona, the birthplace of Celtic Christianity, the misty and mysterious Highlands, and taking time for us.

Sabbatical is also a time for congregations to reflect on the shared ministry with their clergy. I will be doing a lot of praying, seeking guidance from God and hopefully listening to hear what an answer might be to the question, "What are we as Trinity Church supposed to do in this anxious and troubled world?" The one answer that I know I will not hear is that we should stay exactly as we are and do what we have always done. The societal forces that are aligned against congregations are too strong to be able to survive without congregations willing to be made new. Ann and Vestry members will host conversations with the congregation, which I encourage everyone to participate in. I ask that you take the next three months to pray and wrestle with our circumstance, so that we might discern our direction together when Peter and I return.

In the meantime... Trinity will be well cared for by three different priests. In July, The Rev. Dr. Pam Tyler will be with you. Pam is an old friend from California, now living in Florida. The prospect of a New England July was enticing enough to bring her here. In 2007 Pam officiated at Peter's and my wedding. Pam has done a lot of work with IRIS in Los Angeles, and since that time created and ran a beautiful retreat center in Taos, New Mexico, before retiring to Florida.



The Rev. Dr. Ann Broomell is a bit more local. She has returned to Connecticut after serving in Florida and as the Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Easton, Maryland. Most recently, Ann has served as the Interim Rector at Christ Church in New Haven. We are fortunate to have found a break in her busy schedule. She will be with you during the month of August. Both Pam and Ann will be available to Trinity beyond the Sunday services, helping with Pastoral Care and administrative functions.



From The Rector



In September, Sunday services will be led by The Rev. Jane Stickney, who has been with you all before. Jane served as the Vicar at St. John's in North Guilford, and as a mentor to Episcopal students at the Yale Divinity School.

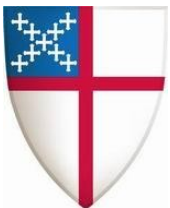
While there are no weddings scheduled for this summer, funerals happen when they will. Should the need arise for a funeral during my absence, Pam and Ann will be available during their respective months. The Rev. Harlon Dalton will be available during September. Asking former clergy to return for such services is prohibited in a newly formulated diocesan policy (April 2016. See link on e-blast). Having these three lovely and pastoral priests prepared to be present should such the need arise will keep us in accordance with policy and make sure that all are well cared for. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to call me before July 5th.

A death in our parish family is one of the few things about which I will be informed while I'm away. I will do my best to be in contact and helpful, while fully confident in the gifts and skills of Pam, Ann, and Harlon.

We are also blessed to have wonderful parish leadership that will help to see Trinity through anything that might arise in my absence. Jane will be in the office as usual, coordinating everyone and the calendar of activities. Wardens and Chairs will be on-the-job as always. Ann Freeman will check my email frequently. In short, everyone you might need is accessible to you, as always.



Special Occasion to Celebrate



June 23, 2016 will be 15 years since Sharon was ordained as an Episcopal priest. A special Worship service has been prepared on June 26th to honor and celebrate Sharon's ministry. Please join us at the 8:00 and 10:00 AM services.



Worship Ministry



Sandy Baldwin
Chair

We are pleased to welcome three new participants in Worship.



Julie Wagner as a lector at the 8:00 AM service;



Ryan Stoddard as a chalice bearer at the 10:00 AM service;



and Patricia Kahlbaugh as a member of the Altar Guild.



We would also like to thank Mary McCarthy for her many years of service as an usher, from which she has decided to retire.

Unity Sunday, July 3

On Sunday, July 3, we will celebrate the Eucharist together as one congregation at 9 AM. After the service we will share an informal brunch and wish Sharon and Peter a Bon Voyage as they prepare to leave for Scotland on their three month sabbatical. It is also a time for us to welcome Rev. Pam Tyler as our first summertime priest. To help with the celebration, please bring your favorite brunch finger food to share. We hope many of you will join us.



Outreach Ministry

For most of us at Trinity, summer is a time of celebration and fun. For many of our Branford neighbors, however, the summer months bring increased food insecurity and anxiety over how to stock the shelves and feed the children who are no longer receiving food at school. Trinity has a longstanding ministry of reaching out to our neighbors in need. This summer, as always, we will fill our aisles and our baskets with canned food and supplies to help lighten the load for those in need in our community.

Please remember to bring to church:

- Canned food for the labyrinth at the September fair! We will line our worship space again with 1500+ cans of food for the Branford Food Pantry.
- Cleaning supplies and paper products that go toward both Trinity's closet and our refugee donations. There are sales everywhere!
- Backpack food for children.
- And don't forget our furry friends! Grab pet food next time you're in Costco or Trader Joes, and we will take it to the Cosgrove Animal Shelter.

Let's continue our tradition of generosity!

Outreach Bake Sale Table Offers Trinity's Best!



Above: Steve Sharma and Deb Knowlton serving up smiles, coffee, and delicious donated desserts.

Thank you to all the Trinity bakers who contributed home-made baked goods to the Outreach table at the Branford Festival. Also, a big thank you to all those who helped setup and staff the table for the duration. Well done Steve Sharma organize this activity which raised \$250 for Outreach. Well done all!



Pastoral Care Ministry



Cathy Seibyl
Chair

It has been exactly a year since we started the discernment process around healing prayer at Trinity, and eight months since we began our twice monthly Healing Service with anointing of oil, laying on of hands and the Holy Eucharist. Sadly, participation by the congregation, and ongoing support by the healing prayer group, has diminished greatly over the last several months.

To be good stewards of time and effort, we will move to a Compline on the 4th Tuesday of each month, which will include prayers for healing, peace and non-violence. Compline will begin on June 28th at 7:00 PM in the Guild Room.

We'll try this over the summer months, and re-evaluate where we are in the Fall. Please hold this ministry in your prayers.



WANTED!

Martha Monico is identifying potential fund sources for the Lower Level Renovation. We need someone with grant writing experience to draft the requests to make us as effective as possible. Please contact Martha if you qualify, or if you know of a person or organization to reach out to. Every bit helps. Thanks!

Parish Life Ministry

Transitions

There is nothing so constant as change. The ebb and flow takes us through sadness and joy, but each person leaves their imprint and we are glad they were here.

So long Mike Carnaroli, Section Leader/Choir.



For the past several years Mike has been the choral director at North Branford High School. Now he has accepted a position as choral director at Killingly High School, CT, beginning with the next

school year. So he and his family are in the process of selling their Branford home and moving to Rhode Island this summer. Mike also leaves his position as Music Director of the Branford Chorale, which has grown enormously in membership while under his direction. Mike's leaving will have a big impact on Trinity's choir, both musically and personally. Besides being tremendously talented, he is much loved by every single member of the choir.

Welcome, Mary Hally!



Mary joins Trinity as our part-time bookkeeper. Mary has her own business Shoreline Accounting Solutions. She has accounting experience in both not-for-profit and commercial experience. She is an active volunteer in Branford,—co-Chair of the Blackstone Library Book Sale, on the Board of Directors for the Branford Education Foundation,

and is Treasurer of the State CT PTA. She was past Chairman of the Branford Festival. Mary lives in Branford with her husband Matthew and their son, Mark. Please join us in welcoming Mary.

Welcome baby Alice!

More formally, that's Alice Lila Anglemire, born June 18, weighing in at 7 lbs 13 ounces. Sara clearly knows how to deliver a spectacular Father's Day gift for husband Neil! Here's hoping big sister Claire is as ecstatic as mum and dad!

Congratulations to all the graduates!

The hard work has paid off, the time has flown by! Each of the students below transitions into the next exciting phase of their lives.

College Graduates

Patrick Monico, Will Pottenger, Alexa Rucinski and Jillian Denhardt.

High School Graduates

Samantha Freeman, Matilda Kreider, Jacob Savarese and Kaitlin Thomas.

Whether seeking a job or deciding about college, we wish you the very best good fortune.

Many Years of Faithful Service

Peter Hayes has served as the Chair of Parish Life Ministry since its inception five years ago. Peter and wife Rodney are preparing to be part-time snowbirds and part-time CT summer visitors. You may know Peter as Chief Chef, whether planning, organizing and/or cooking, for everything from First Sunday Breakfast to the Church picnic, and special dinners like Twelfth Night. Always delicious, always different, and maybe some really unexpected surprises!



Above, Peter and Marlisa prepare to serve brunch on Trinity Sunday

Peter has served Trinity faithfully for many years. We can only say a very heartfelt thank you. We've enjoyed everything you've ever cooked. Thank you for mentoring others. You will be greatly missed.

Parish Life *continued*

Youth

Trinity Sunday was fun!

Nearly 70 people enjoyed Peter's delicious menu. There were no leftovers!



Trinity's long-term staff were thanked for 70 years of combined service. Jane (in the office), our Sexton, Nancy Williams, and Ron Baldwin, Music Director & Organist, were recognized. Ron, along with everybody else present, was musically treated to a spiritual song featuring Chris Henry as soloist, and Trinity's choir as the chorus. What a joy! Fantastic!! Ron and Sharon are absolutely loving it!



Gabe Simerson

It was only recently, as I thought about my impending departure from Trinity and from New England (for college at American University in Washington, DC), that I realized my ("planned") future was not a separation from my times here, but a direct reflection of what I did at this church.

It was behind this lectern that I learned it was possible to be a public speaker and a stutterer, that talking for many people at a time was something I liked to do. My recent work at WNPR, and my plans to get involved at WAMU (AU's NPR member station) and NPR in Washington, would not have been formulated without our lectern.

It was in our youth groups and Confirmation class that I was exposed to new ideas, ways of thinking, and ultimately events which led to my piece on WNPR (a valuable experience and tool in navigating the road ahead).

It was in these pews that I learned to read the vocal parts of a hymn, in this choir that I was first introduced to the world of



Anglican sacred music, and behind this organ that I first discovered its own world of art and technique. Since my first choral experiences here I've made it

to All-State choir, started playing the organ, and formed connections (through choir members at St. Thomas's New Haven, where I sometimes sing) in Washington to carry out my master plan: get a church singing job, further organ lessons, and maybe end up a church music director.

It could not be more fitting that I'll have the privilege of playing the organ for my last service on August 14, allowing me to express one more thing this church has shown me: the gift of giving. No matter which organs I'll play, choirs I'll sing in, and lecterns I'll speak from, this will always be my home church.



Stewardship Ministry

Lower Level Renovation Project

This important initiative is progressing. A joint meeting, including Vestry members, Steering Committee members and the architect of choice, Tony Terry, helped to clarify the project and the purpose of the feasibility study. Parishioners were also invited to hear the details. Vestry voted unanimously at the June meeting on using \$30,000 of Trinity’s money to pay for the Feasibility Study.

Minutes of all meetings may be found on the parishioner site—trinitybranford.org—and as a link in the *Trinity in Touch* weekly e-blast.

On a practical level, in the last week we have received another two requests for use of our space by non-profits in town. Meeting space is at a premium. With all the recent and planned housing units and retail shops added around the downtown area, there are more people, more activities, in our immediate neighborhood. Experts say Millennials have a different approach to most things, compared to most of us reading this newsletter. Rental housing and rental space is what they will be looking for. That could be Trinity.



Finance Ministry



John MacDonald
Treasurer

Mid-year Giving Statements

Statements will be going out in July. Watch for advance warning to expect receipt by email for everyone with an e-address. It’s another step in time-saving and expense reduction. Good stewardship of our resources! Anybody who prefers to receive by mail, should contact the office. It’s just one click to make that happen along with others mailed for people who don’t use a computer.

Year-to-Date Financials

Overall, on the income side we are 12% below where we expected to be at this point. We are studying this to better understand the cause(s). On the expense side, \$24,000 for expected small capital projects has not been spent. Our good fortune helps offset the revenue shortfall.

Endowment Fund Committee Progress

Finance Ministry

This Committee continues to meet to finalize the annual process to calculate, track spending, and report use of available fund dollars, according to restriction or general use. Available dollars are calculated using a spending rule which ranges from 3%-5% as determined by the Committee suggestion and Vestry’s ultimate approval. Maximum dollars available for 2016 are \$66,203. Of that amount, \$49,000 is expected to be needed towards meeting operating expenses. The increased amount of the operating shortfall is, in part, due to the loss of the annual \$15,000 grant for operations from the Foote Family Charitable Trust. Instead, the Trust awarded Trinity \$73,000, but restricted it to capital improvement projects. Removing the restriction on future grants will be discussed with the Executor.

Mabel Shepard Will

We are grateful to Jay Pottenger, who has applied his legal expertise to research and clarify the ambiguous language in Mabel Shepard’s Last Will & Testament, which was executed in January 1971; she died in September, 1984. Jay spent time at the Probate Court reading through the files of lawyer Don Sawyer who drew up Ms. Shepard’s Will.



The Shepard Will asked that the proceeds of selling her home and adjacent lot be spent in the discretion of the Trustees (the Rector and Sr. & Jr. Wardens of Trinity Church, Branford): (i) “for welfare work within the parish of said Church” or (ii) if the trustees deem it “inadvisable to spend all for that purpose, then for providing scholarships for needy and deserving students within the parish of said Church”. The phrases requiring interpretation are “welfare work”; “needy and deserving students”; and “within the parish of said Church” [which applies to both uses].

Jay’s research suggests that “welfare work” has a broad meaning, reflecting the long-standing concept of “general welfare” of the community or body politic, as recited in the founding documents of the United States. The pejorative connotation of “welfare” as a negative social program targeted to the poor seems to have gained prominence some years after the Will’s execution. The phrase “within the parish of said Church” most likely reflects the concepts of community and membership, which are consistent with that broader, communitarian notion of “welfare”. It is unlikely that the reference to “parish” was intended in the ancient English sense of a geographical boundary or district, since that usage was tied to the English political context, with an established, official “state church”, in

Finance Ministry *continued*

which each church served a specific village or district. [John Seibyl, who served as Trinity’s Senior Warden in the mid-nineties, said at that time these phrases were interpreted to extend both to those in need outside of our congregation as well as Trinity members.]

The phrase “needy and deserving students” seems to leave considerable discretion with the Trustees; given the spiraling costs of education, it is difficult to say that a particular student is neither “needy” nor “deserving”.

Meeting minutes may be found on the parishioner portion of the Trinity website, and as links in *Trinity in Touch*.

Education Scholarships Available, But Changed



John Seibyl
Junior Warden

Historically, education scholarships received through Trinity have been known as Shepard Scholarships, since the funds came from the Mabel Shepard Fund. Through the work of current Finance Ministry members and members who are legal experts, it was discovered that scholarship use was the secondary purpose within Mabel Shepard’s Will, not the primary purpose. The primary purpose, as outlined by Jay Pottenger’s findings on page 6, is a much broader general use which would benefit a greater number—if not all—of the members. It remains at the discretion of the Trustees and Vestry how much of the available Shepard money is spent on general use benefit vs. scholarships. That will be determined annually by current priorities.

New this year, money for scholarships could also be available through the Goodrich Fund, given the daunting cost of education. The Trustee is Mike Dodd and the Probate Court. The combination of Shepard and Goodrich funds for scholarships continues the tradition of supporting scholarship gifts at a level that is helpful. These many years after Mabel’s death, the education system has changed greatly, with students engaging at any time of life, and thus there is no shortage of applicants. We are pleased that Trinity can meet the challenge, and feel confident both Mr. Goodrich and Ms. Shepard would be pleased.

New applicants should complete the application form and forward to **juniorwarden@trinitybranford.org** by **July 15**. Returning applicants will shortly receive an email with instructions.



Submission deadlines vary, approximately every 6 weeks. Please e-mail to **communication@trinitybranford.org**. Photographs are welcome. It is respectfully requested that material not be formatted (no bolds, underlines, bullets, truncated lines, unusual spacing, etc.), since graphic design software doesn’t know what to do with it!

Articles will be reviewed by an editor. Editorial rights are reserved for clarity, and to fit space constraints.

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Trinity Leadership

Senior Warden: Ann Freeman
Junior Warden: John Seibyl
Parish Clerk: Bobbe Otis
Treasurer: John MacDonald

Vestry

Maryann Allen, Neil Anglemire, Debbie Bradley,
Judie Cavanaugh, Brenda Feniola, Annie Gustely,
Dave Howell, Mary MacDonald, Jen Zehler

Staff

Parish Administrator: Jane Dougherty
Sexton: Nancy Williams
Bookkeeper: Mary Hally



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**The Rev. Sharon Gracen, Rector
Ronald Baldwin, Music Director**

Parish Office 203-488-2681

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www.trinitybranford.org

Worship at Trinity

Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

**9:45 AM Sunday School and
Nursery Care**

**10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
With music and choir**

**Televised on Channel 18
And AT&T Channel 99
7:00 PM Sundays**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Looking In, Looking Out
A Summer Spiritual Camp**



August 8 through 12

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Trinity Institute for Applied Neuroscience & Spirituality (TIANS) invites children aged 4 – 12 to explore their spirituality through mindfulness, story telling, art, music, and nature. To register and for more information, email Jen Zehler @ jen.zehler@tians.us.