

VOICE OF TRINITY

November 19, 2009

Volume 09, No. 09

Life Together: The Second 150 Years!!

Rediscovering Our Core Values

A subcommittee of our Vestry continues to work on the project of defining the core values of Trinity as a congregation. This project started at our Vestry retreat in June, and has become an integral part of our 150th anniversary celebration as the Vestry works to better articulate who we are as a congregation.

FROM THE



RECTOR

There are a couple of exciting aspects to this. The first of these is what the project says about our Vestry and the way its members have stepped up to become leaders not only of the financial matters of the congregation but as spiritual leaders of the congregation as well. It is evident from the way our Vestry takes control of the budget process – not simply looking at dollars and cents (which is VERY important in its own right) but in looking at our budget as a mission statement. Our budget is truly a representation of Jesus' famous saying, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Mt. 6:21, Lk. 12:34)

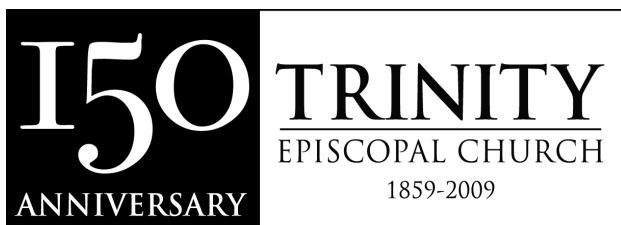
Another exciting aspect is that it demonstrates that we at Trinity have a living faith, a faith that understands our lives – individually and corporately – as a journey of becoming, step by step, closer to God's desire for our lives. We are a people not standing still in the vineyard, but a people on the move in discerning what God has in store for us, and what God is calling us to become. We are God's people on God's mission.

But what do we bring to that mission? This is where articulating our core values as a congregation is important. Why do we worship at Trinity and not at some other church? What is there about our Anglican/Episcopal roots that makes us distinctive? What is there about our ministries – both inside the church and beyond – that draws us to call Trinity our spiritual home?

Having culled through pages and pages of notes from our Vestry retreat, the subcommittee – consisting of Sandy Kissel, Amy Arlin, Boo Morton, Alan Rice and me – articulated 5 core values that seem to capture the essence of "who we are and why we are here." A check-in at the October Vestry meeting validated those results – the Vestry overwhelmingly and strongly agreed with the values identified. They are:

- We believe that God calls us into community
- We believe that we are called to love as Christ loves
- We believe in welcoming each person as a unique child of God
- We believe that life is a journey of faith
- We believe that we are called to offer our best in service, worship, music and the arts

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Logo by Gary Holmes, Gariphic Design

This Is My Story

In conjunction with our 150th anniversary celebration, The Voice will feature an ongoing series of reminiscences by Trinity parishioners about their personal histories in our parish. This month, we hear from Keith and Alexis Hook.

Keith (an excerpt)

When I got out of the Army, I came back to New Haven, where I had grown up. I was offered a job at Connecticut Mutual in Hartford, and began my career there as an attorney on February 1, 1946.

Alexis was still in New Zealand, working as a nurse, and in time she joined me via a “bride ship” that traveled to Australia and then to San Francisco. We lived for the next two years in an apartment at the corner of Imlay Street and Farmington Avenue, and attended the Congregational Church with friends. But Alexis wanted to attend an Anglican church, so she began attending Trinity, and was very happy with it. She joined and then I did, and we have been members ever since.

In 1948 we bought a house at the corner of Gillett and Niles Streets, and lived there for the next 20 years. We had four children (Andrew, Edith, Christopher [Sambo] and Jamie) and everyone attended Trinity. We could walk to church. I began attending the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew every Wednesday morning at Trinity. This group had been organized in 1952 by Morton O. Nace, at the request of Bishop Gray. We would

have Eucharist, and then meet with the Rector. There were 10-15 regulars, and we called on people who had signed the guest registers – and were able to get a number of them to join the church. I was on the Vestry when we started considering an education wing.

In 1958 or so, I began helping with the parish refugee program, as part of the Church World Services Refugee Year. Otto Quednau and other German-Americans helped as part of this program. Alexis was part of this also, and a key member in it, as she had taken German in high school. At that time we lived in a 13-room house, so we put up some of the families. It was quite a cultural experience! Dutch people came after that, then Cubans and Hungarians. In the 1970s, we hosted Kurdish refugees, and later Bosnian Muslims. Jesse Mallory, Trinity’s Sexton, did a lot to help all the refugees. I and others at Trinity followed up with many of these families for years after.

Alexis

Trinity Church has been a true home for me and our family, a center for the Spirit for growth, outreach, communion and joyfulness. I was happy to be able

to serve on the Altar Guild for ten years, for six years of teaching Sunday School, being on the Vestry, many years on the Pastoral Care Team. It was fun and a privilege to welcome refugees into our home, and later to be a part of the healing ministry.

I was so grateful when I could take communion to homebound parishioners. Now we are sometimes blessed by having communion brought to us. Hallelujah! I grew up in Trinity Church. From the bottom of my heart I can affirm that I have received far more from and through Trinity than I ever gave Trinity. In a way each member of Trinity is a blessing and gives me hope for the future.

Did You Know?

■ The oak tree in the courtyard is a descendent of the original Charter Oak and was raised from an acorn by Mrs. Alice Goodwin. It was planted on Trinity grounds in 1912 when its trunk was 1 ½” in diameter.

■ In December 1959 Trinity issued the “Trinity Cookbook,” which cost \$1.25.

Christmas Services



December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 4:45 p.m. Musical prelude by the children of the parish
- 5:00 p.m. A celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant, especially suitable for children of all ages and their families, with music by the Choir School of Hartford
- 10:30 p.m. Music for Christmas sung by the Trinity Choir and the Choristers and Novices of the Choir School of Hartford
- 11:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist of Christmas, with the Trinity Choir and The Choir School of Hartford, accompanied by brass and strings

December 25 - Christmas Day

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with sermon and carols

December 27 - The First Sunday after Christmas

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Congregational Lessons & Carols

There will be no childcare for either of the services on Christmas Eve or the service on Christmas Day. Childcare will be available as usual during the 10:00 a.m. service on December 27. The regular schedule of Church School classes will resume January 10, with the first Sunday children's Eucharist held as usual on January 3.

Spread Some Christmas Cheer; Take a Tag from the Giving Tree!

Trinity's loving tradition is coming up: Our Christmas Giving Tree, decorated with children's wishes, will be waiting in the Baptistry on the First Sunday in Advent (November 29).

Our Covenant to Care social worker, Lakesha Ruth, will provide us with a list of wishes from needy Hartford youngsters; tags with the first name, age, gender and wish of a child will be attached to the tree.

You are invited to take a tag from this year's Giving Tree, fill in your name and phone number on the top

part, detach this top portion and leave it in the provided basket. Keep the bottom part, listing the wish. After you have purchased and wrapped the gift, attach the bottom part of the tag and place your gift under the tree on Sunday morning or deliver it to the office during the week.

All gifts must be brought in by Sunday, December 20.

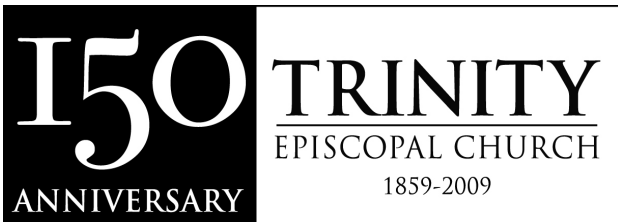
Thank you for sharing in this special Ministry.

– Susanne Mantel
for the Outreach Team

Time to Catch Up on 2009 Estimates of Giving

As we enter the month of December we begin an annual ritual of "catching up" on our estimates of giving that may have fallen behind during the year. The Good News is: You are not alone! If you have fallen behind your estimate, we appreciate your doing your best to bring it up to date in the next few weeks.

If for whatever reason you will not be able to catch up, please call a member of the clergy, or call Pam Haddad (860-527-8133, Ext. 301) and let her know. May God bless you richly in your faithfulness.



Evensong Set for Feast of St. Nicholas

Our next monthly service of Choral Evensong will be sung by the Trinity Choir and The Choir School of Hartford on Sunday, December 6, the Feast of St. Nicholas. Music for this 5:00 p.m. service will include a setting of the canticles for Evensong, the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*, by Henry Purcell; Bert Landman’s setting of the Advent hymn “People, Look East”; and an Advent processional by Donald Pearson.

Everyone is invited; come enjoy the beautiful Anglican tradition of Evensong – then stay on for the supper and carol sing (see article to right). Childcare will be available in the Art Room during Evensong.

Meet St. Nicholas at Potluck Supper & Carol Sing!

As part of our 150th anniversary celebration, an evening of tradition and fellowship has been planned for Sunday, December 6. It will begin with our Choral Evensong at 5:00 p.m., followed by a potluck supper organized by John Hinkston at 6:00 p.m., and an old-fashioned carol sing led by Bert Landman at 7:00 p.m. This is an evening for the whole family – complete with a very special visit from St. Nicholas himself!

Look for the sign-up sheet in Goodwin Hall, where you can let us know how many will be coming and what you will bring to share for the supper.



December

Marcia C. Lee	1
Alexis Hook	3
Justin White	3
Margaret Rousseau	3
Anna Engler	4
Benjamin Engler	4
Marcia A. Lee	6
Dannel Petgrave	6
Ron Gripp	8
Lillian Sandford	11
Alston Roach	12
William Peelle	12
Chris Barrett	12
Joe Troiano	13
Jonathan Ude	14
Jim Register	15
Linda Eckert	17
Nancy Whitcomb	19
Gerald Tomas	20
Rebecca Holmes	23
Kachi Onoh	23
Kali White	23
Andrew Rose	24
Nicholas Thomas	25
Joseph Hewes	27
Sarah Harmon	29
Emma Cheyney	29
Jonathan Garcia	29
Andrea Dyrness	29

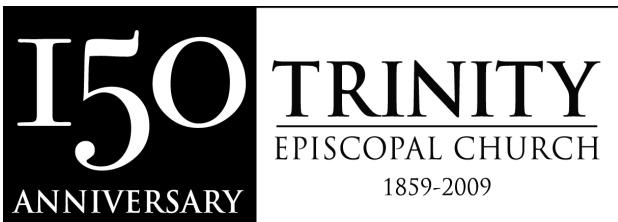
If you have a December birthday not listed above, please call Pam Haddad in the parish office at (860) 527-8133, Ext. 301, so she can add your special day to our parish records.

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Hartford, Connecticut 06105-2796
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e-mail: office@trinityhartford.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:
Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.
Evensong: 1st Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. (October-June)

The Reverend Donald L. Hamer, Rector
The Reverend Barbara K. Briggs, Assistant Rector
The Reverend Ronald J. Kolanowski, Assistant Rector
The Reverend Dr. Frank G. Kirkpatrick, Priest Associate
The Reverend Helen M. Moore, Priest Associate
The Reverend Patricia Jackson, Deacon
The Reverend William J. Eakins, Rector Emeritus
The Reverend Dr. Robert S. Henderson, Pastoral Counselor

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Edited by Katherine S. Wilson



What Happened in December Long Ago?

25 Years Ago

Bill Eakins was installed as the 11th rector of Trinity Church on December 2, 1984. It was the First Sunday in Advent, the season of new beginnings, and Eakins appropriately brought healing and renewal to the parish after years of many staff changes and unclear direction. A graduate of Trinity College and the Episcopal Theological School, Eakins came to Hartford from All Saints Church in South Hadley, MA. In addition to these credentials, Eakins also brought a love of entertaining and interest in the arts which re-energized the social and cultural life of the parish. The rector jumped into church activities, organizing a Twelfth Night party soon after his arrival. He often performed major roles in (K)naves productions and became well known for his culinary talents.

Thanks to successful fundraising for the 125th anniversary building fund, improvements and repairs began to be made throughout the church complex. These eventually included the stenciled decoration in the library and Goodwin Hall, remodeling the lavatories and kitchen, and modernizing the parish offices. Another round of physical improvements and repairs (including stabilization of the pinnacles of the bell tower) took place in 1994-1995.

In 1988 Hope Adams arrived at Trinity as the Seminarian Intern; she was to become Assistant to the Rector and then Assistant Rector. In the same year Kathie Wilson assumed the position of full-time Parish Secretary, and Elizabeth Johnson became Financial Secretary. (Though retired, Elizabeth regularly volunteers in the church office to this day.)

Starting with Loaves & Fishes in 1988, Trinity offered the use of its buildings for non-parish functions and initiated programs to reach into the greater Asylum Hill community, including tutoring at West Middle School, Trinity-Asylum Hill Arts Program (TAAP) and Light & Peace, a Vacation Bible School and a summer camp, and a Youth Chorister Program founded by Music Director Iain Quinn in 2000. When Loaves & Fishes moved out in 2000, Trinity welcomed the Salvation Army Senior Center the following year. In addition to providing space for 12-step programs and office space to the Society for the Increase of the Ministry, Trinity began offering performance space to the Connecticut Valley Chamber Orchestra. The national Church recognized Trinity for its outreach to the community by designating the church a "Jubilee Center" and Eakins declared 1998-1999 a Pilgrim Year, a time of

thanksgiving and spiritual renewal. A Pilgrim Cross crafted by warden Russ Harris circulated through the parish households.

Buoyed by the renewed energy of the parish led by Eakins, Trinity initially experienced increasing Sunday attendance and pledges. However, by 1996 the trend reversed and these numbers were decreasing. The Vestry decided not to cut vital programs but to draw from Trinity's endowment to make up the financial shortfall and at the same time make efforts to increase membership. These concerns shadowed the final years of the Eakins rectorship and continue to be addressed today in the shadow of the economic recession. Eakins retired September 29, 2002.

Each month during our 150th anniversary year, Karin Peterson will be writing about events at Trinity Church that took place during that same month in years now long gone by.

Godly Play for December

Group I, (ages 3- grade 3) and Group II (grades 4-6) will continue to meet upstairs in the education wing from 11:30-12:30 every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month to explore the themes and stories of Advent. There will be NO CHURCH SCHOOL on December 27.

Trinity Welcomes 34 New Members

On Sunday, November 15, Trinity formally welcomed 34 new members who have recently made the commitment to join our parish. In a brief ceremony, the new members were reminded of the commitment involved with membership, and the congregation joined in prayerfully welcoming them. Each adult was then invited to sign the parish register, formally signifying their desire to be enrolled as members. Those signing the Register are:

Ms. Elaine Bedard &
Ms. Gail Shepard and
daughter Olivia
Drs. Jeffrey & Amy Brown
and daughter Catherine
Ms. Beverly Bygrave
Mr. Kevin Chick
Mr. Gary & Mrs. Kim DeMichele
and children Julia, Nicholas, T.J.
& Emma
Mrs. Jeanne Foldvary
Mr. Stephen &
Mrs. Keane Foldvary
and children Aidan & Keara
Ms. Walton Foster
Mrs. Sarah Harmon
and children Princess & Secret
Ms. Olda James
Mr. William Kofalk
Ms. Merle Melhado
Mr. Thomas Moore
Ms. Marion Porter
Mr. Jonathan Reik &
Mrs. Jane Zoufaly Reik
Mr. David Scott
Drs. Enrique Sepulveda &
Andrea Dyrness
and daughter Sofia
Mr. Peter Wood

Please be sure to personally welcome these new members into our community of faith!

Come to the Christmas Mall!

One-stop Christmas shopping will be available following the services on December 6. Several of our parish ministry teams will have a variety of items for sale – come take a look for that perfect Christmas gift! Proceeds will benefit a number of parish ministries and outreach efforts. Here's what you'll find on sale at the Christmas Mall:

Items from the Banner Guild

The Banner Guild will offer a variety of handcrafted items for your holiday giving – to yourself or others:

- New Trinity 150th Anniversary banners in two sizes, designed by Hector Phelps
- Hand-painted pieces of broken roof slate, in various sizes, by Elizabeth Johnson
- Christmas ornaments from the Banner Guild

Proceeds will benefit the Roof Fund.

Anniversary Year T-Shirts

Trinity teens will be selling T-shirts featuring Trinity's 150th anniversary logo. Shirts come in youth sizes (xs - 2/4; s - 6/8; m - 10/12; l - 14/16; xl - 18/20) and adult sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL and 3XL. The cost is \$10 per shirt (\$12 for 2XL and 3XL). Profits will be donated to scholarships for teens in the Diocese of Tabora, Tanzania.

Christmas cards

Again this year, the Friends of the Choristers will be selling Christmas cards featuring Trinity's beautiful stained glass windows.

Cards will be on sale for \$10.00 for a packet of 10 cards and envelopes, or \$15.00 for 20 cards. Proceeds will benefit The Choir School of Hartford.

Gift Cards for everyone!

The Choir School of Hartford will also be selling gift cards to major retailers, entertainment companies, grocery stores, department stores and many other businesses, including online and catalogue retailers. Orders will be taken at the December 6 mall, with delivery in time for Christmas. Gift cards must be paid for by cash or check. The cards cost the same as they would if purchased directly from the retailer, BUT The Choir School receives a rebate from each one! If you are planning to give gift cards as presents or just to use for your own regular purchases, consider getting them from The Choir School and everybody wins. This will be an ongoing project; please stop by the Choir School table and get this project off to a good start (and cross a few more names off your list).

Trinity Church Aprons

The Outreach Committee will be offering Trinity aprons for sale at the December 6 Christmas Mall. The aprons are made of durable 100% cotton and will be available in natural color with navy lettering, or royal blue and white lettering, with Trinity's Gray Cross logo on the front. Each apron has two generous pockets. The cost of each apron is \$15, with sale proceeds going to support the scholarship program for the students in our partner parish in Tabora, Tanzania.



Sunday Symposium Schedule for December

Our Advent Christian formation series will follow the trend of recent years in sharing cultural traditions of Christmas and Advent.

Sunday, December 13: Advent and Christian Traditions from Russia

One of the interesting aspects of this presentation is that there aren't many – the focus is on the New Year. Alan Rice, his wife, Elena, and mother-in-law, Galina Zhidkova, will offer a sampling of Russian holiday foods and a discussion of Russian holiday traditions.

Sunday, December 20: Advent and Christian Traditions from Liberia

Fred and Emily Bohlen and their family, Elizabeth Moore, and Sarah Harmon and her family will provide a sampling of foods typical of holiday celebrations from their homeland in this northwest African nation, and will talk about Liberia's religious and cultural traditions associated with Advent and Christmas.

Both December Symposium sessions will meet in Goodwin Hall following the 10:00 a.m. service. We hope you will be able to join us for these celebrations of our many cultures at Trinity.

Trinity Continues To Aid Grace Church Pantry

Following the outpouring of support for the pasta drive led by the Outreach Team in October, we're embarking on another month of donations in honor of our 150th anniversary. Each Sunday during the month of December, we'll be collecting donations of canned baked beans to help stock "A Place of Grace" food pantry at Grace Episcopal Church in Hartford. Like pasta, this is another staple that has been in very short supply from Foodshare. Our goal will be 150 cans – and more *is* better! Donations can be placed in the wicker baskets located near the entrances to the church.

If you would like to know more about this food pantry, which is open every week to the residents of Hartford's Parkville neighborhood, and how you might volunteer to help, speak to Penny Pearson.

Did You Know?

Jesse Mallory (seen in a Goodwin Hall portrait by parishioner Carl Henry) had several careers, including being a self-employed shoemaker, before coming to Trinity as its sexton in 1954. He served until 1971 and then continued as verger until his passing in 1984.

From the Rector Continued from Page 1

What do you think? Do these values coincide with your own values? In the coming weeks, we will be asking the congregation to weigh in on these values. We look forward to your participation.

Your brother in Christ,

The Reverend Donald L. Hamer,
Rector

Hamers To Host 2009 Holiday Teas

As was announced in the October *Voice*, members of our parish are once again invited to one of two Sunday afternoon holiday teas to be held at the Rectory during December.

Father Don and Debbie will host their teas from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. on December 13 and December 20 at their home at 240 Kenyon Street in Hartford's West End.

This year, instead of mailing out invitations separately and assigning parishioners to one of the two dates, we're just issuing everyone an invitation to come to the tea that's most convenient. An invitation is enclosed with this *Voice* so you can attach it to your refrigerator or bulletin board as a reminder! Don't miss this chance to enjoy an afternoon of conversation and holiday cheer at the Hamers'.

(K)Naves News

The (K)Naves would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. They would also like to ask you to save some special dates in your new calendar for 2010. These dates are Friday, April 23, Saturday, April 24, both at 6 p.m., and Sunday, April 25, at 1 p.m. for the (K)Naves' Spring Show. Our drama group's second offering for Trinity's 150th birthday celebration, this will be a mammoth dinner theater production of Thornton Wilder's magnificent play *The Skin of Our Teeth*. The show will be presented in the church with meals in Goodwin Hall. This show will require lots of actors on stage as well as backstage artists, sewers and help in moving platforms, etc. Anyone interested in being involved should contact Gloria Cheyney at 860-502-7967 or GRARAG@yahoo.com. Watch this space for further news about the cast and progress on rehearsals!

Alta To Perform Renaissance Noël's

Tired of "Jingle Bells"? Let the Alta renaissance wind trio inspire you with new and different (actually, *old* and different) sounds of the season. On Sunday, December 13, at 4:00 p.m., Alta will return to Trinity Church to offer a program of beautiful Christmas music from 15th- and 16th-century Germany, Spain, England, and the Low Countries, all performed on renaissance instruments. The trio – Gwendolyn Winkel, Daniel Green, and Peter Braunfield – will be joined by percussionist Ashkan Fahandej Saadi. Tickets are \$15.00.

National Homeless Memorial Day Monday, December 21 at Trinity

As we reported in the November *Voice*, December 21 marks the longest night of the year. Various national organizations mark this day to remember the homeless community and especially those who have died. They invite every community in the nation to mark this day with a community-wide celebration. We're happy to report that **Trinity has taken the lead by hosting a memorial service and holiday luncheon that will bring together some 30+ cosponsoring organizations including churches and non-Christian faith communities, all the homeless shelter and feeding programs in Hartford, and other institutions, including the City of Hartford.**

We anticipate 300-400 people will come to Trinity to remember the 20 Hartford residents who died during the past year due to violence, lack of access to health care, or exposure to the elements.

Two ways you can help.

1. Sock, hat & glove drive

We are inviting each of you to help us collect warm, winter socks, hats and gloves that will be given to those without homes after the service and dinner on the 21st.

We will be collecting these items on December 6 at the St. Nicholas service of Choral Evensong. These items will be put into small gift bags and given out to all who attend the Homeless Day service on the 21st. Items may also be brought to the office through December 20.

2. Volunteers Needed.

Needless to say, we need volunteers to pull off this event. There are opportunities to help set-up on Sunday, December 20, to help cook on the morning of the 21st, to be greeters as people arrive, to help keep the buffet tables full, to serve the food, distribute gift bags, and the all important clean-up after the event. Please **contact Fr. Ron ASAP to offer your help.** Send him an e-mail at rkolanowski@trinityhartford.org, or give him a call at 860-527-8133, Ext. 203.

Off to the Movies for Trinity 20s and 30s

Sunday, December 13, at around 4:00 p.m., Trinity's 20s and 30s group will meet for a movie and supper together. The meeting time will depend on show times, and supper together will provide the opportunity to share impressions of the film. The film choice will be by consensus.

If you are interested in joining the group for this trip to the movies, please let Marsha McCurdy, Kevin Chick, Kate Lindsay or Barbara Briggs know so everyone who plans to attend can make the movie choice together and choose a film time and cinema. If you want to be included on the e-mail list for the 20s and 30s group, please e-mail the Reverend Barbara Briggs at bbriggs@trinityhartford.org.

Advent Quiet Day: How is Christ being 'born' in me today?

Our Advent Quiet Day for 2009 will take place at Trinity on Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Come away for a few hours for some peace, quiet and fellowship this Advent to contemplate the real meaning of Christmas through image and Word. Short talks followed by a time of reflection and sharing in small groups will give participants the opportunity to rest, relax, and come closer to God through listening, looking and sharing. Ample use will be made of brief biblical meditations and an introduction to praying with icons coupled with personal time and/or sharing in the small groups. The needs of each participant will be taken into account as far as possible. The day will be led by Ms. Kim Litsey, and the Revs. Barbara Briggs and Ron Kolanowski. If you would like to attend, please call Pam Haddad in the church office at 860-527-8133, Ext. 301 before or on December 10 to reserve a place.

Office To Be Closed Week after Christmas

The parish office will be closed from December 25 through January 3, reopening Monday, January 4. Although the office will be closed, the buildings will otherwise be open for scheduled meetings. (Note: the usual Wednesday 7:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. services will be held December 30.) Messages will be checked while the office is closed, and, as always, the clergy person on call can be reached at the emergency clergy number, 860-816-0914.

Annual Appeal Update – Mid-November

Trinity's Annual Appeal is off to a great start. As of November 16, we had received 115 Estimates of Giving, totaling \$273,294. More than half represented increases over last year's commitments, and we had 16 estimates from people who were either new or had not pledged last year. This is a particularly gratifying response in a year when the economy is making times difficult for many of us. Being sure that God's work at Trinity continues to flourish is obviously a high priority among her members.

We have many people to thank for the good success we have experienced to date. The Wardens and Vestry have been behind us from the beginning and provided early commitments to start the ball rolling. Clement Mogor, Marsha McCurdy, Katie Reynolds and Laquisha Springer provided inspiring spoken testimonials during the services. Written encouragement from Father Don, Al Shuckra, Jim Bradley, Alice Turcotte, Gertrud Newhall, and Doug Putnam went out to the congregation in the weeks leading up to Stewardship Sunday. Last but not least, a host of volunteers hand-wrote all the notes that went out with each of the Annual Appeal packets. That's a lot of radical generosity and we thank each one of them!

Finally, a reminder. If we haven't heard from you yet, please help us help Trinity. This year, rather than a firm pledge, we are asking everyone to make an estimate of their giving for the coming year. This is the time of the year when budgets are formulated for 2010.

Having your estimate of financial support provides the ability to make solid plans to further God's Kingdom at Trinity. It also allows each of us to start to answer the question "How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things He has done for me?"

The Annual Appeal Team
Steve Smith and Martha Freimuth
Boo Morton and Marion Porter

Greening of the Church Set for December 20

At 12 noon on Sunday, December 20 – the Fourth Sunday of Advent – Trinity Church will begin the week leading up to Christmas with our annual "Greening of the Church." Everyone is invited to stay on after the 10:00 a.m. service on the 20th to help decorate the church



for Christmas. It takes a lot of decorating to get everything ready, so lots of help is needed. Members of our Altar Guild and Flower Guild will be on hand to tell all our helpful decorating elves just what to do.

Don't miss the chance to be part of the fun of getting our beautiful church building all dressed up for Christmas. Come help deck the halls with greens and bows and garlands as Trinity Church prepares to celebrate the great feast of the Nativity – for the 151st time!

Notes from the November Vestry Meeting. . .

The Vestry meeting of November 17 began with an opening meditation based upon the Thanksgiving Gospel, Mt. 6:25-33 “Consider the lilies of the fields,” which ends with the words to a hymn, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be gathered unto you, Alleluia.” The Vestry divided into two groups and reflected on ways in which this Gospel passage speaks to us individually, to us in our role as Vestry members, and to our congregation as a whole.

The Vestry unanimously passed the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- a. Minutes of October 20, 2009
- b. Approval of technical Correcting Amendment to Clergy Compensation for 2009
- c. Re-affirmation of Trinity Sponsorship for Greater Hartford Chapter of Integrity in order to clarify issues of insurance coverage during meetings
- d. Approval of Dr. Louise Loomis, Dr. Enrique Sepulveda and Ms. Kitty Peterson as Rector’s Appointments to the Day School Exploratory Committee

Updates: Roof Project. The physical portion of the project is complete, with some minor “punch list” items to be resolved. There has been little change in the financial picture for the roof as the State grant money has not yet been received.

Updates were also provided on the Day School exploratory committee, the Core Values subcommittee and the Annual Appeal.

Reports: Treasurer Jack Pearson reported that pledges are behind for the year, but no more than has been typical in recent years. The Rector is encouraging people to bring their estimates of giving current if possible. Expenditures are running slightly better than budgeted.

Warden Al Shuckra is on the planning committee for the Greater Hartford Prayer Breakfast and encouraged people to attend. He also proposed that the Vestry consider holding formal business meetings every other month and utilizing the interim months for other types of Vestry business. The wardens and the Rector will put together a proposal for consideration at the December meeting.

Warden Boo Morton noted that Trinity is growing in numbers, energy, and excitement, and the Vestry is to be commended for living the culture of Trinity.

In clergy reports, Fr. Ron thanked all who have been involved with the Teens’ program, and picking up the duties that Ron has been unable to do. He reported on a productive meeting of the Pastoral Care Team, which has inaugurated a new casserole and meal ministry for those members of the parish needing these services. He also updated the Vestry on plans for the Homeless Persons Memorial Day celebration. The service will be an interfaith service to be held at Trinity on December 21 beginning

at 11 a.m. Sponsors include over 30 communities of faith, the Lincoln Culinary Institute, and the City of Hartford. As many as 400 people are expected to participate. Food is being donated by Foodshare, and we are initiating a sock donation program for which donations should start coming in December 6. A voter registration booth will be provided by Trinity parishioner Urania Petit and the office of the Registrar of Voters. Volunteers are needed.

Fr. Don reported that Bishop Smith’s retirement celebration will be on Sunday, February 28, at Trinity. Fr. Don also congratulated the Vestry on their leadership, particularly with respect to newcomer ministries.

The meeting ended with an extended Executive Session to discuss matters of budget as they relate to personnel for 2010. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Voice Deadline

December 17 is the deadline for the next issue of *The Voice*, which will cover all events coming up in January 2010. Please send all materials for this issue via e-mail to voice@trinityhartford.org. Articles may also be delivered to Kathie Wilson in the parish office; the deadline for articles is 4:00 p.m. on the 17th.

Given the upcoming Christmas holidays and the volume of mail at this season of the year, it is particularly important that ALL articles for this issue be turned in on time. Thank you very much!

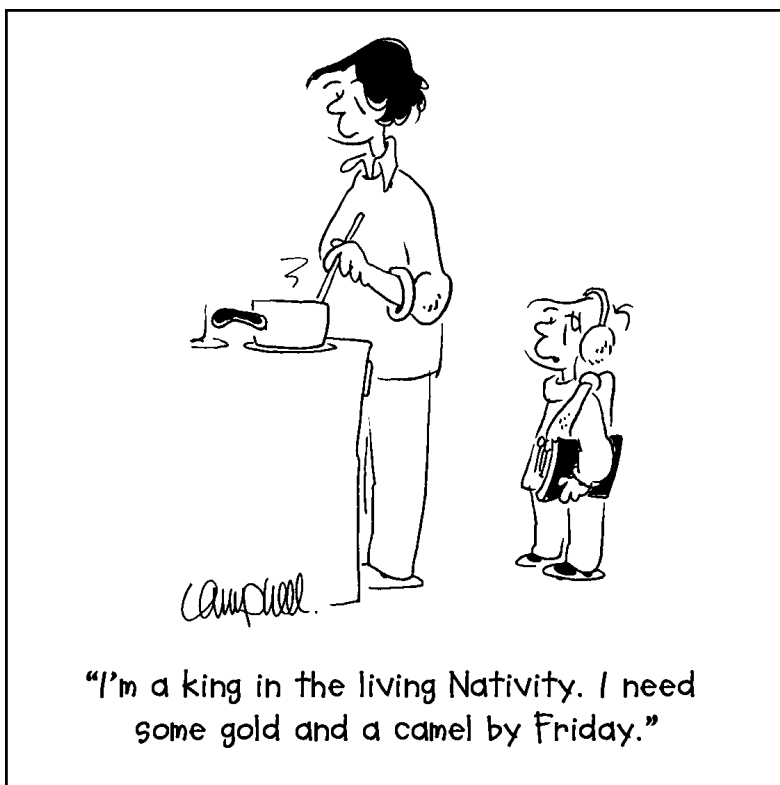
The Christmas Crèche: Bring all you are to the stable

The crèche, or Nativity scene, dates to the Middle Ages. It is also sometimes called “the Manger,” the place to stable animals. Nativity scenes had been set up in Europe before St. Francis of Assisi made a living manger for Midnight Mass in 1223. St. Francis was visiting the town of Greccio and saw there would not be enough room for all of the people in the church so he found an outdoor setting to accommodate them and set up a living manger scene. During the preceding centuries a pageant known as the *Officium Pastorum* (Office of the Shepherds) had been performed or a fixed scene set up behind the high altar, but St. Francis took this further with living animals.

While an outdoor Christmas crèche is not planned at Trinity, we invite you to bring one item from each member of your family to add to

our crèche. Bring something that has special meaning to you. It doesn't have to be an angel or an animal, although it can be. When we made a personal crèche at a retirement home in Maryland where I was a chaplain, I was amazed by what people brought. One atheist resident brought a copy of Nietzsche's writings, another a Christmas ornament given to her brother 70 years earlier - her brother had just died, and she brought him to the crèche.

Bring items to Evensong on December 6 or any day up to December 20. Please leave a note so we know which item is yours so it can be returned. You have been called by God as you are, so bring yourself to the stable this year. Questions??? Call Fr. Ron at 860-527-8133, Ext. 203, or send him an e-mail at rkolanowski@trinityhartford.org.



Voice To Go Electronic!

Don't forget: As of January 2010 the primary publication mode of *The Voice* will be electronic. BUT - don't worry; if you do not have e-mail or for whatever reason prefer to receive *The Voice* in a paper copy, we still have you covered:

1. If you have e-mail and we know your address, you need do nothing. The January edition will automatically arrive in your e-mail box the day it is finalized.
2. If you have access to the Internet, you can download *The Voice* – including past editions – at our website, www.trinityhartford.org, at any time.
3. If we know that you do not have e-mail or access to the Internet, we will automatically mail out a printed version of *The Voice* as we have in the past. *You don't need to do anything.*
4. If you have e-mail but still prefer a paper *Voice*, or just want to make sure we know you do not have e-mail, please call the office at (860) 527-8133, Ext. 204, and let Kathie Wilson know you would like to receive a printed copy of *The Voice*. We'll make sure your name is on the list. Forms will also be available at the entrances to the church which you may complete and drop in the offering plate or in the message box by the water fountains.
5. If you have received a paper *Voice* even though you have e-mail and haven't asked for a printed copy, that means we haven't got a working home e-mail address for you. Please notify the office of your electronic address!

Time Well Spent: Hosting the African Children's Choir

Below are excerpts from an article Bonnie Barrow, mother of Choir School member Evan Barrow, wrote for the newsletter published by the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy, where she is on the faculty.

Presence is a concept that first term students at Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy hear about a lot. Many teachers have exercises that demonstrate the concept and these can be powerful lessons. How do we bring the learning into everyday life? Life is busy for everyone, we all have our schedules and our routines that keep us on track. The question is how to be present in the midst of all that.

A few weeks ago our family hosted two boys from the African Children's Choir, Benard, 9, from Kenya, and Gideon, 10, from Uganda. Keeping up with my busy schedule, I struggled to allow for the time to be present for the small segments of time that these boys were in our care. It took some planning ahead and some putting aside. There was community time at Trinity Church that included a meal prepared and shared by our Choir families and the exciting, colorful, uplifting performance as the highlight of the day. It was easy to be present then, focusing on the moments, the feelings, the people, the food. Easy while I was away from daily distractions, participating in the event fully. It was the few hours in the evening and in the morning in our home, attending to these boys, that I was challenged to stay present. Fighting the urge to clean up now so I could allow more time to listen

to them read Dr. Seuss to Evan and me and to each other. Giving my full attention to the moment so I can know without words that they really want me to read the "twee-tle beetle" tongue twister just one more time before they go to sleep. Listening in the quiet house to the giggles and whispers as they try to settle down to sleep. Feeling the pull of my busy schedule as I answer a phone call that takes me away from the joy of watching the three boys play Leggos and Uno. The anxious feelings as I quickly end the call to rejoin the fun on the living room floor. Taking a breath to allow myself to regain my presence in this moment as the boys play the piano together, trying to cooperate, as each has a song to play. Watching Gideon's eyes as my husband shows him how to play his guitar. Feeling the bond that we now share, knowing we have made them feel safe and loved.

Driving Benard and Gideon back to the church at the end of their stay with us, the boys playing with Evan's travel toys in the back seat, I was fully present with the bittersweet emotions that goodbye would bring. The bus being loaded with bags and equipment by the volunteers, the children hugging each other, the adults that travel with them and the host families' good morning and goodbye. The beautiful warm colorful fall day that surrounded us. Tears being held by those of us being left behind. Touched deeply by the experience and grateful for the ability to fill those moments with my complete attention and feelings, fully present.

Bonnie Barrow

Community Performances Highlight Choir School Holiday Calendar

The Choir School of Hartford will be singing at the Governor's Mansion on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. for the Governor's annual Holiday Open House. This event is open to the public free of charge. Come hear our young singers perform for the Governor and the many people who will be on hand to enjoy the music and the chance to tour the Mansion in all its holiday finery.



The Choir School will also be singing for the Festival of Trees at the Wadsworth Atheneum on Saturday, December 12, at 1:30 p.m. in Avery Court. On the 12th, the Festival is open from 10:00-5:00. General admission is \$13.00, with discounts for seniors, students, children and museum members. Free admission will be offered that day to children 12 and under who bring a gift of a new hat, scarf, mittens or gloves to be donated to a Hartford homeless family shelter. Special children's craft activities will be offered from 11:00 - 3:00.

The Choir School will be singing for the Bishop's Service at Seabury Retirement Home in Bloomfield on Tuesday, December 22, at 10:30 a.m. This will be Bishop Smith's last time to preside at this service as our Diocesan Bishop.

The Trinity Community is invited to come hear our young singers at all three of these December events.

Trinity Institute 2010: Does Theology Have a Role In Shaping a New Economy?

At Trinity Institute's 2010 Conference you'll have an opportunity to help define the answer. Trinity Church Hartford, as a partner site of Trinity Church, Wall Street, will host the conference right here in Hartford in real time with a video link and on-site reflection groups composed of your peers and colleagues in ministry, lay and ordained. The dates are January 27-29.

Whatever happens in the world economy in the coming months, advocating for an ethical economy – one that works toward the biblical ideal of sufficiency for all and is resistant to exploitation – will be a priority, especially for clergy and lay leaders.

"Building an Ethical Economy" will bring together leading theologians and economists to talk about the relationship between economics and Christian belief and action. Speakers will address topics including:

- Theology & Economics:
Two Different Worlds?
- Is Capitalism a Belief System?
- What Is Wealth?
- What Do We Owe the Future?

Each speaker will talk about one of these questions in detail, followed by responses from the other speakers and audience questions. Interactive reflection groups throughout the conference will

provide attendees with an opportunity to discuss what's been said and share their own thoughts and experiences.

The conference opens at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27. Thursday sessions run from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; the Friday sessions begin at 8:00 a.m. The conference ends at 5:15 p.m. on Friday. Registration for the Trinity Hartford conference site is \$70.00.

For further information, please visit the Trinity Church website at www.trinityhartford.org; click on the "Events" link. A registration form can be downloaded from the Web site. The link to this form is <http://www.trinityhartford.org/pdfs/TrinityInstituteRegistration.pdf>.

Christmas Memorials



If you would like to contribute to the 2009 Christmas flowers in memory of a friend or family member, please fill out the form below and send it to the parish office, along with your check, by December 22. Checks, which may be for any amount, should be made payable to Trinity Church and earmarked "Christmas Memorials." Names of all those in whose memory contributions have been made will be listed in the Christmas bulletins.



TRINITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - 2009

I enclose a check for \$_____ for the Trinity Church Christmas flowers
in memory of _____

(Please print)

Contributed by: Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

New Handicapped Ramp Honors Todd White

Trinity Church has a new portable ramp that now allows barrier-free access to the chapel, one of the last areas in our buildings not previously handicapped accessible. The ramp is a gift from Trinity parishioner Justin White, a member of Boy Scout Troop #47 in Manchester, who is completing the last of his requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest scouting rank awarded by the Boy Scouts of America.

The planning and construction of the ramp was Justin's Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, which requires a Scout to demonstrate leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of his community. Under Justin's supervision, 12 leaders and scouts from Troop 47 built the ramp over the weekend of November 14-15, following an ADA-compliant design devised by Trinity's sexton, Steve Foldvary, and a woodworker friend.

Justin has dedicated the new ramp to his father, Todd, who, before his death last August, persevered in accomplishing a great deal in life despite physical limitations. Both

Todd and Justin's brother, James, who helped out on the project, themselves earned the rank of Eagle Scout, Todd in 1976 and James in 2004. A formal dedication for the new ramp will be scheduled.

Book Group Chooses Short Story by Gail Godwin

The short story "An Intermediate Stop" by Gail Godwin is the featured reading for the January meeting of Trinity's Book Group. The group, which is always open to new folks, will meet on Friday, January 8, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the home of Jane Harris in Glastonbury. Just give her a call at 860-633-0708 to let her know you're coming, and to get directions. (The story can be found in *Listening for God, Vol. 2*, available through amazon.com.)

At the December 4th meeting, the group will discuss *The Battle for Christmas* by Nissenbaum, a history of how Americans have celebrated the holiday. Susanne and Ansgar Mantel will be the hosts at their home in East Windsor (860-623-4752.)

It's Pageant Time!

Christmas time: a time of joy and wonder, a time for Christmas pageants! The pageant tradition at Trinity Church continues this year with a now classic script by Trinity's own Mark MacGougan, one of a trilogy begun in 2004. At once thoughtful and entertaining, the pageant dramatically portrays several stories from the Bible that lead up to the telling of the story of the Nativity, and it's designed to incorporate lots of children with a minimum of preparation. Directed by Kate and Casey Rousseau, the pageant takes place during our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Kate and Casey will be working with the Church School to organize costumes and make sure major roles are filled, but any child who wants can be part of the pageant by simply showing up about a half hour early on the 24th to don a costume and join in. Children visiting for the holidays, as well as all the children in the parish and friends coming with them to the service are welcome!



Christmas Memorials

EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST FOR DECEMBER . . .

Page 14

December 4
7:00 p.m. Book Group (at the Mantels')

Page 12

December 5
10:00 a.m. Choir School at Governor's Mansion

Page 6

December 6
9:00 & 11:30 a.m. Christmas Mall

Page 4

5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong

Page 4

6:00 p.m. Potluck supper & carol sing

Page 9

December 12
9:00 a.m. Advent Quiet Day

Page 12

1:30 p.m. Choir School at Atheneum

Page 7

December 13
3:00 p.m. Holiday tea #1

Page 8

4:00 p.m. Alta concert

Page 9

December 20
12 noon Greening of the Church

Page 7

3:00 p.m. Holiday tea #2

Page 8

December 21
11:00 a.m. Homeless Day service and lunch

Page 3

December 24 & 25
Christmas services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 Holy Eucharist, breakfast and Bible study 12:10 Holy Eucharist	3	4 7:00 Book Group at the Mantels	5 10:00 Choir School at Governor's Mansion
6 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Children's Eucharist 5:00 Choral Evensong 6:00 Potluck supper & carol sing	7 6:00 Light & Peace Program	8	9 7:00 Holy Eucharist, breakfast and Bible study 12:10 Holy Eucharist	10	11	12 9:00 Quiet Day 1:30 Choir School at Atheneum
13 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:30 Church School & JTA 11:30 Sunday Symposium 3:00 Holiday Tea #1 4:00 Alta concert	14 6:00 Light & Peace Program	15 2:00 Loaves & Fishes crew	16 7:00 Holy Eucharist, breakfast and Bible study 12:10 Holy Eucharist	17	18	19 1:30 Lunch preparation for Bushnell Park homeless
20 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:30 Church School & JTA 11:30 Sunday Symposium 12:00 Greening of church 3:00 Holiday Tea #2	21 11:00 Homeless Day service & lunch 6:00 Light & Peace Program	22 7:15 Vestry Meeting	23 7:00 Holy Eucharist, breakfast and Bible study 12:10 Holy Eucharist	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 24 4:45 Musical Prelude 5:00 Pageant & Holy Eucharist 10:30 Musical Prelude 11:00 Festival Eucharist	<i>Christmas Day</i> 25 10:00 Holy Eucharist Office closed	26
27 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist with congregational Lessons & Carols	28 6:00 Light & Peace Program Office closed	29 Office closed	30 7:00 Holy Eucharist, breakfast and Bible study 12:10 Holy Eucharist Office closed	31 Office closed		<i>Italics = A.M.</i> Normal type = P.M.

December 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS: January 15 Avery Ensemble concert (7:30 pm.)
January 27-29 Trinity Institute
January 31 Alta wind trio concert (4:00 p.m.)

Calendar of parish events. Check the weekly schedule in the leaflet for additions & changes

Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06105 (860) 527-8133 www.trinityhartford.org

*Please come to a
Holiday Reception and Tea
at the Rectory*

*240 Kenyon Street
Hartford*

Sunday, December 13, 2009

or

Sunday, December 20, 2009

3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

*You're invited to attend on whichever
date you find more convenient.*

No RSVP is necessary!

Don and Debbie Hamer