

VOICE OF TRINITY

November 21, 2015

Volume 15, No. 06

Life Together at Trinity

Be Not Afraid

As we approach the season of Advent, this is the message we all need to hear. It is one raised up by our Presiding Bishop in a recent message: BE NOT AFRAID. It is a profound message for Advent 2015.



The words “fear” and “afraid” appear hundreds of times in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. One of the most well-known of these is in Luke 2:10: *In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...’*

This is a familiar Biblical pattern: God’s people are facing an unfamiliar, unexpected, unknown, threatening or even terrifying situation. They don’t know what to do. God or a divine representative makes an appearance. And among their first words are some version of, *Do not be afraid*. They are words of comfort and reassurance as the human witnesses learn of some great event that God has made possible.

And so it is for us today. In recent weeks we have witnessed a passenger jet liner explode in mid-air over Egypt as the result of a bomb contained in what appeared to be a beverage can. We have witnessed the ability of a handful of well-organized extremists to orchestrate synchronized mass murder at multiple venues in Paris. With respect to these events, Bishop Curry writes:

In times like this fear is real. And I share that fear with you. Our instinct tells us to be afraid. The fight-or-flight mentality takes hold. At the present moment, many across our Church and our world are grasped by fear in response to the terrorist attacks that unfolded in Paris last Friday. These fears are not unfounded... And yet, especially when we feel legitimate fear, our faith reminds us “Be not afraid.” The larger truth is that our ultimate security comes from God in Christ.

As it was for those shepherds, so it is for us – especially we who are accustomed to believing that we are in control of our own situations. Advent is the season of hopeful expectation, leading us to the glory and the joy of Jesus’ birth. The shepherds went with the angel’s assurance to check out the unknown situation that was waiting for them in a stable in Bethlehem. God invites us this Advent not to shrink with fear, but to follow faithfully where Jesus leads us, even in the midst of unfamiliar, unexpected, unknown,

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Coming Up in the Adult Forum

The Adult Forum Series for 2015-2016 meets in the Library following the Sunday morning 10:00 a.m. service. Here's the schedule for the next two months:

December 6 & 13 – Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam

Led by: Dante Tavolaro

Join our seminarian, Dante Tavolaro, in an exploration of James W. Moore's *Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam: An Advent Study*. Each of the two sessions in this series will focus around a passage of scripture, exploration of the weekly theme, time to share and reflect together, and of course prayer. Questions and topics for reflection throughout the course of the week will also be provided but are not necessary for Sunday participation.

The first session, "Bethlehem or Bedlam," will explore the reality that finding Bethlehem means discovering the good news that in the birth of Jesus Christ, God meets us where we are, even in the midst of bedlam. In the second session, "Love Came Down in Bethlehem," we will discover that we will find Bethlehem when we discover the strength and power of love given to us through Jesus Christ.

December 20 – No forum; come help with the greening of the church! (See article on Page 10)

December 27 & January 3 – No Forum

January 10 – A Glimpse into Trinity's Past

Led by: Liz Kirkpatrick

Join our parish archivist in an exploration of Trinity's past viewed through the photographs and other materials that document the 156-year life of our parish

January 17 – The Legacy of Dr. King

Led by: Dr. Benjamin Foster, Jr.

Dr. Foster is an educational consultant and practitioner of public school administration and human services management. Among his published works is the book *When the People Speak: Selected Words on Life in the African American Experience*. Dr. Foster is the husband of Trinity parishioner Dr. Walton Brown Foster.

January 24 – Where to live as you age

Led by: Carol Ann McCormick

Ms. McCormick, who is Vice President of Sales and Marketing at the Duncaster Retirement Community in Bloomfield, will discuss options. She will educate us about the differences among independent living, assisted living, and over-55 communities, and speak in a general way about the financial implications of each approach to senior living and the role of long term care insurance.

January 31 – TBA

Cathedral To Honor Deacon Richey at Service of Lessons & Carols

On Sunday, December 6, Christ Church Cathedral will offer a 3:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols, a traditional Anglican service which celebrates the birth of Jesus through Bible readings interspersed with music of the holiday season. This year's service is a special one, as it is being planned in honor of the Reverend Donald Richey, who is retiring. Since 2012, Deacon Richey has served as the Deacon for Church by the Pond, which offers an outdoor service of Holy Eucharist in Bushnell Park every Saturday afternoon followed by the distribution of bag lunches to people in need. (Trinity is one of the many churches who participate regularly in the Church by the Pond ministry.)

Everyone is invited to come to the Cathedral on the 6th to enjoy the beautiful music and honor Deacon Richey for his years of ministry. A reception will follow the service.

No Evensong at Trinity in December or January

Since a number of our members are regular participants in the Church by the Pond ministry, Trinity has cancelled its first-Sunday-of-the-month service of Evensong for December so that everyone can attend the December 6 service of Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral in honor of Church by the Pond's retiring Deacon Richey (see article above). There will be no service of Evensong in January; our 2015-2016 Evensong series will resume on February 7.



Christmastide Services

December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 5:00 p.m. A celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant, suitable for children of all ages and their families, with music by the Probationers of The Choir School of Hartford
- 9:30 p.m. A musical prelude featuring settings of familiar and not so familiar Christmas carols, anthems and motets with the Trinity Choir and The Choir School of Hartford
- 10:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist of Christmas, with the Trinity Choir and the Choristers and Novices of The Choir School of Hartford, accompanied by brass, strings and timpani

December 25 - Christmas Day

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

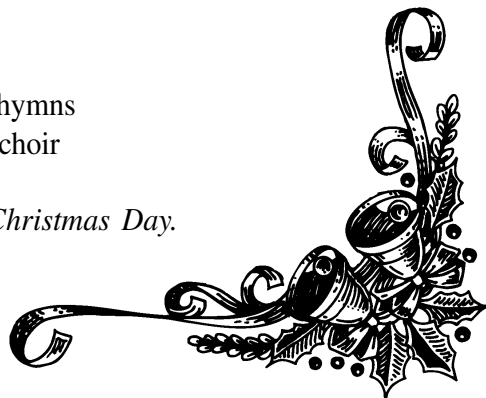
December 27

- 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with congregational Lessons and Carols
(one service only this day)

January 3

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with sermon and hymns
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with sermon and choir

There will be no childcare on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



The parish office will be closed from December 24 through January 3, reopening on Monday, January 4. On the days the office is closed, the buildings will otherwise be open for scheduled meetings and activities (and, of course, for Christmas and other worship services!) In case of a pastoral emergency, please call the office number (860-527-8133) and press 1 for the emergency clergy mailbox.

The office will also be closed on Monday, January 18, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

Share Your Nativity Set

Down through the centuries, artists have painted and sculpted the Christ Child in thousands of ways. Many of us invite the Holy Family into our homes each Christmas in the form of a treasured crèche scene depicting what the manger at Bethlehem might have looked like.

Again this year, we are asking you to share one of your Nativity sets for display in the window ledges of the church during Advent and on through January 3, the Second Sunday after Christmas. If you are interested in sharing your crèche with the rest of the Trinity community, contact Bert Landman at (860) 527-8133, Ext. 205, or send him an email at blandman@trinityhartford.org. Please include your name and any information you have about the artist or medium when you bring in your crèche.

Women's Choral To Present "Soul of the Season" at Trinity

The West Hartford Women's Choral invites you to attend its 2015 winter concert at Trinity Church beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 11. The chorale, which recently celebrated its eleventh anniversary, will offer a program of seasonal favorites along with some new songs and a performance of Padre Giovanni Battista Martini's setting of the *Magnificat*. Trinity parishioner Linda MacGougan will join the Chorale and its own accompanist, Barbara Robbins, for contemporary composer Randall Stoope's *Magnificat* for choir and piano four hands.

There is no charge for this concert; a free will offering will support music scholarships for high school voice students.

Christmas Pageant Schedule Announced

Is there an angel in your house? How about a shepherd or a wise man? In keeping with our annual custom, Trinity's 2015 Christmas pageant will be held at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Children of all ages, including visitors from out of town, are invited to participate.



Speaking parts are being cast through November, and rehearsals will be held after church on December 6, 13, and 20. Younger children with non-speaking crowd roles (angels, shepherds) will need to attend only the last rehearsal on the 20th, but will need to be fitted with a costume earlier.

If your family includes a child (or children) who would like to participate in this year's pageant, please sign him/her/them up during Sunday morning coffee hour beginning November 22. Please see Carla Griffith or Jannel Thomas to sign up.

Children should arrive at the church between 4:15 and 4:40 on December 24. Last-minute visiting children who would like to participate in the pageant should plan to arrive at 4:10 p.m. – please let us know if we should expect someone who is visiting your family this year.

Questions? Please contact Lynda Curtis at 860-527-8133, Ext. 207, or send her an email at lcurtis@trinityhartford.org.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Evensong: 1st Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m. (February-May 2016)
Compline: 3rd Sunday of the month at 8:00 p.m. (except January)

The Reverend Donald L. Hamer, Rector
The Reverend Bonnie S. Matthews, Deacon
Mr. Ebert W. Landman, Precentor
Assisting Clergy: The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith,
The Rev. Dr. Frank G. Kirkpatrick, The Rev. George A. Chien,
The Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack
The Reverend William J. Eakins, Rector Emeritus

The VOICE of Trinity Church
Published in August, then bi-monthly, September to May,
for Trinity's members and friends

Edited by Katherine S. Wilson

From the Annual Appeal Team

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

1 Peter 4:10

This year the Annual Appeal team decided to visually highlight and celebrate the work we do at Trinity. On each of three Sundays we presented a slide show highlighting a key aspect of our life together. The first presentation dealt with worship, the second with Music and Arts, and the third with Outreach to the community. Each slide show presented a vivid reminder of the many gifts we enjoy here at Trinity and the many ways we use these gifts to praise God and to serve others.

Trinity is a vital and vibrant part of the Hartford community and, given the many gifts that we have received, our grateful response must be to continue to praise God and to offer ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit to bless our community.

For some time now, we have been aware that due to our increased dependence on the Trinity endowment to fund operations, the endowment is quickly being eroded. Currently the endowment funds approximately 36% of the operating budget. While it is true that at our current rate of usage, the endowment will be depleted in a couple of years, it is not true that Trinity Church must then close its doors. We can continue to do the great work shown in our slide show presentations if we reduce our dependence on the endowment and, by faith, become a more fully member-supported church.

At Trinity we practice proportional giving as a means of working our way to the church's minimum standard of giving, which is the tithe. In proportional giving we give a proportion of our income to support the work of the church. In order to reduce our dependence on the endowment, each of us must prayerfully review where we are on this journey and consider how we can, over time, increase our proportionate giving.

This year the Annual Appeal team is asking that, as we review our financial support to Trinity Church, we consider increasing our gift by 1% of our income. This level of giving would significantly reduce the endowment's support of operations. In this way, in a few years our endowment usage could be down to about 5% where financial planners recommend it should be in order to extend the life of the endowment and allow it to grow.

Estimate of Giving and related materials have already been mailed out with the annual in-gathering scheduled for Sunday, November 22. Prayerfully consider your level of giving for the coming year and bring your completed Estimate of Giving card to church on November 22. If you cannot attend services on the 22nd, you are urged to mail your card to the church office in the pre-addressed envelope included with the mailing.

Please join us in responding faithfully to God's call to us to spread the good news of Jesus' love.

For the Annual Appeal Team:

Toni Fatone
Janet Wilkinson
John Berger
Nancy Berger
Marc Miller
Lily Miller



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<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityEpiscopalHartford>



If you have a December or January birthday not listed below, call Pam Haddad in the parish office at 860-527-8133, Ext. 204, so she can add your special day to our parish records.

December

Tess Eckhardt	1
Marcia C. Lee	1
Margaret Rousseau	3
Justin White	3
Marcia A. Lee	6
Ron Gripp	8
Sasha Lewbel	8
Asker Downer	9
Quinn Kess	10
Lillian Sandford	11
Rochelle Harrison	12
Joe Troiano	13
Deborah Williams	13
Jonathan Ude	14
Linda Leyhow	15
Jim Register	15
Helena Haddad	15
Max Eckhardt	15
Georges Annan-Kingsley	15
Linda Eckert	17
Emmanuela Igboanugo	18
Nancy Whitcomb	19
Levi White	20
Carter Cogshall	20
David Weaver	20
Rebecca Holmes	23
Kachi Onoh	23
Kalee Troiano	23
Paw Say Wah	24
Andrew Rose	24
Nicholas Thomas	25
Amity Gage	26
Elizabeth Windnagle	27
Emma Cheyney	29
Jonathan Garcia	29
Andrea Dyrness	29
Dianne Bowens-Waller	31

January

Maung Chint Aye	1
Ma Aye	1
Ifeoma Mogor	1
Moo Ket	2
Sandi Cone	3
Cathy Hunter	3
Carrie Margeson	3
Doug Viets	4
Connie Bain	5
Mona-lisa Gooden	6
Beryl Tomlinson	7
Jordan Moore-Thomas	8
Emily Bohlen	9
Antoinette Legister	9
Kiara Burgos-Santiago	9
Daniella Brown	10
Gregory Breault	13
Jenna Mayfield	14
Valerie Pogue	15
Lah Shi	16
George Chien	16
Ned Miller	16
Percy Williamson	16
Jorja Henderson	19
Steven Ross	19
Betty Anne Cox	20
Drew Smith	20
Jordan Bernard	21
Zechariah Stephens	21
Peg Buck	24
Peter Rice	24
Quinn Duva	25
Janet Amenabar	26
Yasmeen Ross	26
David Weaver	26
Ernestine Weaver	27
Jonelle Eugene	29
Brian Cogshall	31

Foyer Groups – A Pledge of Community

Foyer Groups, or Home Groups, are 7-8 Trinity folks who gather once a month, typically in one another's homes, with the simple purpose of getting to know each other better. This past year they were very popular and people have been asking to join.

The new season of Foyer Groups will begin to meet in mid-January and continue until all who wish to host a gathering have had that opportunity. Groups will be formed with the goals of 1) including a cross section of the parish – singles and couples, long-time members and newcomers, etc. – and 2) keeping geography in mind. Each group will decide when to meet, what refreshment to share, and how to spend their time together – just visit, join in a devotion or prayer, play a game, etc.

Q. If I sign up, do I have to host a gathering in my home?

A. No. There are other ways you could act as host, such as bringing a main dish to someone else's home.

Q. Transportation is difficult for me. Shall I sign up anyway?

A. Yes. We can't promise that we can find you a ride, but we will try.

To sign up or ask questions, get in touch with Roy McAlpine and Emily Estes (860-206-1532; rmcalpine@comcast.net; emestes@comcast.net) or Mark and Linda MacGougan (860-561-1588; macgougans@gmail.com). Signup sheets will also be available in Goodwin Hall. Signups will end December 6, coming up soon. Hope you can join us!

Hospitality Hosts

December 6

Frances Sloan
Kathy Steinwedell

December 13

Jennifer Stephens
Jannel Thomas
Sandeep Thalluvi

December 20

Mike and Debbie Thomas
Olive Tronchin

December 27

Sonia Watson
Tim Watt & Amity Gaige

January 3

Robin and Nick Duva
Georges and Marthe
Kingsley

January 10

Mary and Jim Register
Olda James

January 17

Corlet and Benneth Ude
Carmen Belgrave

January 24

Emily Estes and
Roy McAlpine
Connie Bain

January 31

Mary Dixon
John and Nancy Berger

Voice Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Voice* is January 15 at 5:00 p.m. This issue will cover all events scheduled to take place in **February and March**, including events in Lent and Holy Week. (Easter falls on March 27 in 2016.) Please send your articles to voice@trinityhartford.org.

Outreach at Trinity



Advent Giving: Toiletries, Clothing for Those in Need

Again this year, the Outreach Team will be accepting donations of new toiletries and gently-used warm clothing to be distributed to those in need in our community. From Sunday, November 29, through Sunday, December 13, team members will be in Goodwin Hall after both services to receive donations. Toiletries will be distributed at our Feeding in the Park/Church by the Pond ministry day on December 19. Requested items are:

- tubes of hand cream (no bottles, please)
- lip balm
- toothpaste (without mouthwash, please)
- toothbrushes

Small-sized toiletries of all varieties (such as you get in hotels) are also welcome.

The gently-used warm clothing we collect will be given to Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford to distribute as part of the Church Street Eats ministry. Requested items are men's, women's and children's:

- coats, sweaters, jackets and sweatshirts
- shirts and pants
- shoes and boots
- gloves, hats and scarves

Please plan to participate, however you are able. Thank you!

Trinity's Foodshare Team Begins Work

Trinity's outreach ministry at Foodshare has begun. Nine parishioners have completed the training for salvage operations, with at least one more person signed up for the future. Our team is scheduled for Wednesdays. Our volunteers began work in the Bloomfield warehouse on November 4, some on the morning shift, some in the afternoon. On our first day we sorted almost five pallets of store-donated food including some non-food items. Want to join in? Love to have you! Contact Drew Smith.

Comfort Cross Sale To Benefit Syrian Refugees

After both services on Sunday, November 29, the Outreach Team will be selling comfort crosses in Goodwin Hall. The crosses, just under 4" in length, are meant to be held in the hand during prayer or meditation or any other time, such as during illness or anxious times. Made of olive wood grown in Palestine and crafted at a workshop in Bethlehem, they are beautiful to the eye and the touch.

The crosses cost \$6 each, and proceeds will be donated to Syrian refugee humanitarian relief. You can pay for your cross by cash or check; checks should be made payable to Trinity Church, with "Syrian refugees" in the memo line.

(More) Outreach at Trinity



Giving Tree To Debut November 29

Our 2015 Giving Tree will make its debut in the Baptistery for our services on the First Sunday of

Advent, November 29. The

tree will be decorated with its customary

collection of

colorful tags

listing the

wishes of

Hartford

area children, some of whom attend Trinity Academy. These children all need our help to make their wishes come true.

To fulfill a wish, take a tag from the tree, write your name and phone number on the top, and leave that part of the tag in the basket provided. Keep the bottom portion, which lists the child's name, age, gender, and holiday wish. Purchase the item, then return your wrapped gift to the Baptistery *with the tag attached* (so we know which child it's for) by Sunday, December 13. Lakesha Ruth, our Covenant to Care social worker, will collect the gifts and make sure they are delivered to their intended recipients in time for the holidays.

Please consider taking one of the tags from the tree, and fulfilling a child's special Christmas wish. (If the cost of granting a wish is more than you can manage all on your own, consider joining up with another Trinity parishioner to share the cost of being a Christmas elf.)

A Season of Presence

The Outreach Team has designated this Advent as a Season of Presence. On November 22, you will be provided a calendar to mark the days of Advent (which begins November 29) with ideas of how you may be present to the world around you. Each day, select a way to serve those hurting, in need of help, lonely or ill, or another example of loving your neighbor. Record your actions on the calendar, marking the days till God is present among us in Jesus' birth. After Christmas, reflect on what you have recorded and how God's presence is felt via your service.

Church by the Pond

Trinity's next opportunity to prepare and distribute bag lunches in Bushnell Park for those in need is Saturday, December 19. This is part of our ongoing commitment to community service, and is one of the "Church Street Eats" programs coordinated by Christ Church Cathedral. Beginning at noon, we will gift wrap new, warm clothing items and assemble packages of toiletries in Goodwin Hall, while we also prepare bag lunches in the kitchen and library. At 1:45 we will bring the lunches and gifts to the park, where we will participate in the Eucharist by the Pond at 2:00, then distribute our lunches and gifts, finishing at about 3:15. Come for as much of this time as you can – friends and families are welcome!

Trinity To Host Christmas Concert with Hartt School & Trinity Choirs

Four choirs from the Hartt School of Music will join the Trinity Choir and The Choir School of Hartford in a concert of Christmas music at Trinity Church on Sunday, December 13, at 4:00 p.m. The program will feature works sung by each of the choirs and pieces sung by all 150 singers. There will also be opportunities for the audience to join in. A reception will follow.

There is no admission price for this event, but a donation is requested. The funds will go to FoodShare, which is able to quadruple the value of every dollar given in terms of purchase power.

This promises to be a great event full of fun and inspiration. We encourage you to attend and to invite your friends.

Do You Know about the Prayer Tree?

We have a small, almost unknown, ministry at Trinity for persons requesting specific prayers. At Father Don's request we offer prayers as needed. Since most of us have times when we don't wish to share these needs publicly, our group offers prayers in confidence and never discusses them except with the Rector or team members. We've been here for a long time, and now we need other interested people to join us, as our numbers have dwindled. No meetings – just a willingness to take and pass on a request in confidence once or twice a month. Let me know and I'll gladly add your name to our list.

– JoEllen Jansing, Coordinator

Cycle of Prayer for December & January

December 6

Connie Bain
David and Jill Barrett
Carmen Belgrave, Laquisha and
Anthony Springer

December 13

Basil and Joy Bennett
Mavis Bennett
John, Nancy and Savannah Berger

December 20

Joseph Bierbaum and Susan Eaccarino
Terry and Bette Blackwood
Jerry, Claire and Chivelle Blissett

December 27

Frederick, Emily, Leroy, Frederick Jr.,
Advetus and Fredlane Bohlen
Dianne Bowens-Waller
Jim Bradley

January 3

Gregory Breault
Barbara, Paul and Caleb Briggs
Ben and Linda Brockman

January 10

Jeff, Amy, Catherine and Andrew Brown
Paul and Daniella Brown
Edie Brunelle

January 17

Peg Buck
Pat Bunker
Tom, Tori, Abigail and William Burns

January 24

Vincent, Beverly and Elon Bygrave
Jose, Tina and Jay Calderon
David and Sara Carson

January 31

Marion Catanzaro
Ginny Catanzaro
Ismerelda and Tristan Changoo

Fresh Start Program Takes Up Residence In Trinity Catacombs

As of November 15, Trinity Episcopal Church is the temporary winter home of Fresh Start Pallet Products, LLC, an Asylum Hill-based micro-business that was the brainchild of Pastor Rick Kremer at Grace Lutheran Church.

Fresh Start Pallet Products takes cast-off delivery pallets which would otherwise wind up in landfills and repurposes them, utilizing their component parts to create indoor and outdoor furniture. The exciting part is that the furniture is created by workers who were previously unemployed and have now been trained to produce the finished products.

As the project got started earlier this year, the furniture was being produced in the back yard of Grace Lutheran under the protection of a canopy. With the onset of winter weather, the business was facing shutdown due to delay in moving into space belonging to the State of Connecticut. That's when Fr. Don, who is a member of the Fresh Start Steering Committee, offered the Trinity Catacombs as a quick and available alternative.

Lee Whittemore, a member at Grace and on-site supervisor of the work, says, "It's not ideal, but it works for us and keeps us going through the winter." With the

addition of some lighting and ventilation, the crew of four has set up a production line and picked up production where they left off on November 12.

Fresh Start plans to remain at Trinity until their new and permanent facilities are ready sometime in spring 2016.

Calendars Still Needed!

Don't forget to bring in your spare 2016 calendars (any kind) for Helen Hart, who gives the calendars to her clients to use to better organize their lives. Please leave your extras on the name tag table in Goodwin Hall.

An Update on Trinity Academy Autumn Activities

The start of school seems long past, and we have been working well with our students. We have just accepted our 17th fourth grader, who started this week. He lives in Berlin and was being bullied at his mostly white school.

We completed testing each student's reading level (DRA score) and found that while many students are on grade level or above with this indicator, many are also having difficulty comprehending what they are reading. Thus, especially for our 4th graders we are focusing on building reading comprehension and the ability to summarize what they have read.

Math testing for the third graders has been completed, and shows (no surprise) that half the class is behind (same as reading/writing). We are focusing on specific math skill areas in both grades.

We are blessed with lots of volunteers, especially in third grade, and can use even more, both to read with students and assist in class. Some students need much better focus in class in order to learn. We have established a relationship with Wheeler Clinic and have had appointments for two families with more to come.

Fourth grade students visited the Big E and even learned a few things about states and animals. Teacher Josh Krause and Principal Jen Canzano prepared very good introductions to the states and follow-up quizzes. We have used "Jeopardy" for building retention and it is working; many students

knew about states across the country.

Both grades picked apples, and students helped make two apple crisps, which disappeared quickly. Our students visited New Britain Museum of American Art last week with a very knowledgeable docent. Knox Parks people visited the school to teach nutrition and returned to provide dirt for growing plants in our new classroom greenhouses. Students enjoy learning discipline in Martial Arts and have been preparing to perform in choir and piano for Cultural Night. They also attended a free hockey game. It's been a busy fall!

— Myron Congdon
Trinity Academy Head of School

Compline Series Continues In December

The Trinity Compline Schola invites you to take a pause in the frenetic Advent/Christmas activity and join them for Compline on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, at 8:00 p.m. In addition to the beautiful setting of the service of Compline, the Schola will be offering motets consistent with the theme of eager anticipation embodied by Advent. The service of Compline lasts about 20 minutes. The Sigourney Street doors will open at 7:50 p.m. You may choose to join us in the Chancel or may sit in the darkened nave.

The Compline Schola has opted to take a break in January, so there will be no Compline service that month. Our Compline series will resume in the new year on February 21.

Service of Remembrance Planned for December 16

The holidays are generally thought of as a time of joy and happiness, but they can be very difficult for those dealing with loss and sadness. Again this year, Trinity Church will offer a special evening service of Holy Eucharist to help support those having a hard time coping with the season. This Service of Remembrance will take place on Wednesday, December 16, beginning at 7:30 p.m., and will include a homily by our seminarian, Dante Tavolaro.



Everyone is welcome. If you are facing the Christmas season with a heavy or anxious heart, please do plan to attend.

Help Decorate the Church For Christmas!

This year's "greening of the church" will take place after the 10:00 a.m. service on December 20. You're invited to help with this festive project beginning right after the service, when, our observance of Advent ended, it's time to decorate the church for Christmas.

There are banners to be hung, wreaths to be put in place, poinsettia trees to build, and Christmas ribbons to tie it all up. It takes many willing hands to decorate our beautiful worship space for the celebrations of Christmastide; plan to be on hand to help with this enjoyable task for 2015. Members of our altar and flower guilds will be available to show you just what to do.

Stephen Ministry Expands with Friendly Caller/Friendly Visitor Programs

Trinity's Pastoral Care ministries are expanding to reach out to more parishioners.

For several years now, Trinity Episcopal Church has been a Stephen Ministry parish, part of a world-wide Christian Caring ministry comprised of more than 10,000 participating parishes. Trained Stephen Ministers receive more than 50 hours of training before being assigned in a one-on-one relationship to a care receiver who is facing some personal crisis. These relationships typically last a year or less, during which time the Stephen Minister visits on a regular basis to provide spiritual support to the care receiver.

Starting in Mid-November, Trinity's Pastoral Care ministries will be reaching out more intentionally to parishioners who may not be suffering a crisis situation but who may be experiencing loneliness or a sense of isolation, particularly if it is difficult for them to get around. With the guidance of Fr. Don and organized by Seminarian Dante Tavolaro, two Trinity parishioners will be reaching out to these parishioners.

John Hinkston, who is a nurse by training, will be leading a phone outreach ministry, reaching out to parishioners who have not been seen in a while. He will be calling to check in about their general

welfare, and ask if they would like a ride to church or a pastoral visit, want to be placed on the home Communion list, or have other similar pastoral concerns. Dianne Bowens-Waller, another Trinity parishioner who has received Stephen Ministry training, will be serving as a "friendly visitor," following up on those parishioners who have expressed a desire for an occasional visit to provide companionship and support.

If you are contacted by John or Dianne, please welcome them as an extension of Fr. Don's pastoral ministry and the other parish care ministries of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Christmas Memorials



If you would like to contribute to the 2015 Christmas flowers and music 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 14. Checks, which may be for any amount, should be made payable to Trinity Church and earmarked "Christmas Memorials." Names of those in whose memory contributions have been made will be listed in the Christmas bulletins.



TRINITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS - 2015

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

(Please print)

Contributed by: Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Designate my contribution for (check one): ☐ Music ☐ Flowers ☐ 50/50 Flowers & Music

Church School News

As we look forward to this Christmas season, let us remember we are called to do the best we can to live lives pleasing to God. Though we will surely fail to live up to the high standards of perfection, we can be grateful for those things we have done for God and live in hopeful confidence that the love and mercy of the risen Christ will not let us go. Let us pray our church community will continue to be an inspiration to our children.

Godly Play continues to meet from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. each Sunday. Children ages three through second grade learn about stories of famous people from the Bible and from our Christian heritage throughout history.

Of special note: When there is a Baptism Sunday, the Godly Play children are to go directly into the church. After the Baptism, the children will be escorted to Godly Play by the acolytes. On all other Sundays, the children are to go directly to the Godly Play Room #3 on the second floor of the Education Wing at 10:00 a.m.

Grades 3-6 – Classroom 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Children learn lessons taken from the Feasting on the Word curriculum.

Crafts and Activities - Held from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 2 on the second floor of the Education Wing for young children waiting for their older siblings.

Holiday Schedule

No Church School Sunday, November 29

Christmas Pageant on Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

No Church School Sunday, December 27

– Lynda Curtis, Church School and Nursery Coordinator

Interfaith Basketball League Looking for Players

The Hartford-area Faith-Based Initiative (FBI) basketball league will begin the **third Saturday in January of 2016**. Churches are invited to enter their teams into the league. There will be two separate divisions: Division 1 – Ages 13-15; Division 2 – Ages 16-18. Ideally, there will be ten teams per division and each team should have a minimum of eight players and a maximum of ten players. In the event churches do not have enough participants for a division, participants from one church can combine with those from another church to fulfill the team number requirement. The season will run 16-20 weeks with extra time allotted for any make-up games required if inclement weather forces cancellations of games during the season.

We are thinking to put together one or two Trinity teams. Interested? Please speak to Fr. Don for more details.

Christmas Memorials

Notes from Recent Vestry Meetings

October:

The Vestry met on October 20 for a leadership development session focusing on the Feasibility Study from Partners for Sacred Places. Leadership Development meetings always feature an abbreviated business session including approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, feedback from the congregation, and reports from the Wardens and clergy.

Following approval of the September minutes, Vestry members provided positive feedback regarding the St. Francis Day blessing of the animals in Sigourney Square Park held on October 3 and the Blessing of the Animals during both services at Trinity on Sunday, October 4. The Vestry acknowledged April Alford-Harkey and Deacon Bonnie for organizing these events and thanked Melzen Farm Supply in Glastonbury for donating all of the animal treats for both days.

Members also commented with enthusiasm about the music on the day of Bishop Chakupewa's visit. It was suggested that we try to incorporate more African music into our services. People also commented that they missed the organ on the recent Sunday when its electrical circuitry had a last-minute failure.

The wardens reported on coordination between Trinity Academy and the Choir School and encouraged participation in the Choir School's Emerald Ball on November 5. Fr. Don reported that Peter Emmanuel was no longer serving as Sexton and that he is

investigating a more viable way of managing and caring for Trinity's buildings and grounds than the traditional position of sexton. Fr. Don also reported that an Ethiopian Orthodox congregation may be interested in worshipping at Trinity and, after discussion, a show of hands indicated overwhelming support for this proposal, with approval for a three-month trial period.

The remainder of the meeting centered around discussion of the highlights of the Partners for Sacred Places Feasibility Study. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. following closing prayers by Fr. Don.

November:

The November 17 Vestry meeting was entirely devoted to the Trinity budget. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. instead of the usual 7:15 starting time, the Vestry was joined by several parishioners and by Finance Manager Fran Times-Mack and Precentor Bert Landman, who presented his requested music budget. The Vestry went through each line item in the budget, with the exception of personnel, to review historical costs and projected expenses for the coming year, and to consider where adjustments should be made.

Following this process, there followed extensive discussion, led by Fr. Don, about the impact that resolutions of Diocesan Convention will have on Trinity in the coming year. Specifically, there are two that we must consider:

- 1) A resolution passed in 2013 that requires a

minimum pledge to the diocese of 10% of each parish's operating expenditures for the previous year.

- 2) A second resolution, originally passed in 2014 but then modified just this month, which requires endowed parishes to spend less than 25% of the average book value of their endowment over a three-year period, beginning in 2016.

The penalty for violating these rules is that the Diocese is then authorized to assume control of the parish endowment and distribute an industry-standard 4 % to 5% annually. In addition, the non-compliant parish can be considered an "aided parish," which negatively impacts the parish's ability to govern itself.

Fr. Don offered to meet with the Executive Committee and develop two different budget scenarios for 2016: one that would represent all of the budget requests for the coming year, and a second budget that would be compliant with both of the Convention resolutions. The budgets will be presented and voted on at the Vestry meeting on December 15.

Recent Address Changes

Andrian, Gus and Peg
281 Western Boulevard Apt. 102
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Catanzaro, Marion
24 Knollwood Road
Farmington, CT 06032



*Please come to a
Holiday Open House
at the Rectory*



*240 Kenyon Street
Hartford*

Sunday, January 3, 2016

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Don and Debbie Hamer

A Trinity tradition continues this year with the annual Rector's Holiday Open House. Come join Fr. Don and his wife, Debbie, at their home for a Christmastide time of fellowship and holiday cheer. All Trinity members are most welcome and encouraged to attend – it's a great way to meet folks you may not get a chance to engage in conversation on Sunday mornings! (In case of significantly bad weather on the 3rd, this event will be postponed to January 10.)



"The characters in this book are real. The names have been changed because your brother can't pronounce them."

Mid-day Eucharist Set for Epiphany

As part of its continuing practice of honoring our significant feast days, Trinity will offer a celebration of Holy Eucharist on the Feast of Epiphany, Wednesday January 6, 2016. The service will be held in the Chapel at 12:10 p.m. and end prior to 1:00 p.m.

Choir School Students To Offer Piano Recital

The Choir School of Hartford invites you to join them for their mid-term Piano Recital on Saturday, January 9, at 11:00 a.m. in the Trinity Church nave. This is always a wonderful opportunity to hear the progress made by our Choir School students and have a chance to greet and congratulate them at the reception which will follow. You will also have a chance to meet our excellent piano teachers, Patricia Guadagnoli and Victor Nigri. The Choir School students and our Precentor, Bert Landman, hope to see you there.

Life Together Continued from Page 1

threatening or even terrifying situations.

On behalf of my wife, Debbie, our Trinity Staff, Clergy and Vestry, I wish each and every one of you a holy Advent and a blessed and joyous Christmastide.

Be not afraid!

Your Brother in Christ,

Don+

The Rev. Donald L. Hamer
Rector

**Martin Luther King, Jr.
Observance To Feature
Dr. Benjamin Foster**

Monday, January 18, is the national holiday in honor of the Reverend



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fr. Don has announced that on Sunday, January 17, Trinity will observe the holiday by featuring Dr. Benjamin Foster as

guest preacher and the day's speaker at the adult forum. Dr. Foster is married to parishioner Walton Foster and is the father of acolyte Suliman Foster. He presently serves as Education Director of the Connecticut Chapter of the NAACP. Plan on joining us to honor Dr. King and deepen our own understanding of his life and work.

**Parish Retreat at
Holy Cross Monastery**

For the second year, Trinity Episcopal Church will join several other area Episcopal parishes in a weekend retreat at Holy Cross Monastery, an Anglican monastery on the banks of the Hudson River in West Park, NY. The retreat will run from 5 p.m. on Friday, February 5, through Sunday afternoon, February 7. Cost per person for private room, to be determined soon, will include the program, room and board. The retreat will be led by the Reverend Linda Spiers of Trinity Episcopal Church, Collinsville, as well as Fr. Don and others. Trinity can send up to eight attendees. For a reservation contact Pam Haddad at 860-527-8133, Ext. 204, or phaddad@trinityhartford.org.

**Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association (AHNA) –
Recent News and Events**

Police Report:

There have been no big changes up or down, with the most criminal activity involving burglaries and car break-ins. Any comments about panhandlers at the Sigourney Street I-84 highway off-ramp should be sent to the Hartford Police Community Service Officer, Chris Chanaca, at chanc002@hartford.gov.

Habitat for Humanity:

This organization conducted over 70 interviews with S. Marshall Street residents regarding the quality of life in the neighborhood and support for a possible community playground.

Education Committee:

This group is putting together data on educational opportunities on Asylum Hill. AHNA will publicize the resulting list.

OPPortunity Academy:

This program for students who are over-age and under-credited opened in August with 160 students. The Academy is operated by OPP (Our Piece of the Pie), a nonprofit with experience in running two schools for this school population. This past summer, 650 youth were placed in internship positions; so far, 52 of them have been hired post-internship.

Early Development Instrument:

Catholic Charities explained this as a means of learning how well children are prepared for kindergarten. It helps to identify if children are entering school on track, at risk, or vulnerable in such areas as communication, social and emotional skills, physical health and education.

A Thank You from The Hartford:

The insurance company offered their thanks for residents' cooperation during the company's recent construction of a parking garage, which has now been completed. The company has commissioned a 30' by 22' work from artist Georges Annan-Kingsley (a Trinity parishioner); a model of the project, which will hang on the outside wall of the new garage, was displayed at the meeting.

Hartford Decides:

Funding is available from this participatory budgeting program for capital improvements and durable goods within the city. Hartford residents vote on the projects, and those chosen will be funded. This is a collaboration among the City of Hartford, the Hartford Public Library, Leadership Greater Hartford, MetroAlliance and Hartford 2000. More information is available at www.asylumhill.org.

Friends of Sigourney Square Park:

The Blessing of the Animals held in the park on October 3 was a success. Carolling will take place in the park on Friday, December 18.

– Boo Morton



120 SIGOURNEY ST., HARTFORD, CT 06105-2796

EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

<i>Page 2</i>	December 6 3:00 p.m. Service of Lessons& Carols at Christ Church Cathedral
<i>Page 4</i>	December 11 7:30 p.m. West Hartford Women's Chorale concert
<i>Page 10</i>	December 16 7:30 p.m. Service of Remembrance with Holy Eucharist
<i>Page 8</i>	December 19 12 noon Church by the Pond lunch preparation & gift wrapping
<i>Page 10</i>	December 20 11:30 a.m. Greening of the Church
<i>Page 10</i>	8:00 p.m. Compline
<i>Page 3</i>	December 24 & 25 Christmas services
<i>Page 14</i>	January 3 2:00 p.m. Holiday Open House at the Rectory
<i>Page 14</i>	January 6 12:10 p.m. Epiphany service of Holy Eucharist (in the Chapel)
<i>Page 14</i>	January 11 11:00 a.m. The Choir School of Hartford piano recital
<i>Page 15</i>	January 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance with Dr. Benjamin Foster
<i>Page 15</i>	February 5 - 7 Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY (begins at 5:00 p.m. on February 5)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Italics = A.M.</i> Normal type = P.M.		1	2	3	4 6:30 Acolyte dinner and training <i>Office closed</i>	5
6 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Godly Play 11:30 Church School, JTA 11:30 Adult Forum 3:00 Lessons & Carols at Christ Church Cathedral	7	8 7:00 Property Team 7:00 Outreach Team	9	10	11 7:30 West Hartford Women's Chorale concert <i>Office closed</i>	12
13 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Godly Play 11:30 Church School, JTA 11:30 Adult Forum 4:00 Holiday concert with Hartt and Trinity choirs	14	15 2:00 Loaves & Fishes food preparation 7:15 Vestry meeting	16 11:00 Loaves & Fishes serving crew at Immanuel Church 7:30 Service of Remembrance	17	18 <i>Office closed</i>	19 11:30 Gift wrapping & meal preparation for Church by the Pond
20 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Godly Play 11:30 Church School, JTA 11:30 Greening of the Church 8:00 Compline	21	22 5:30 Trinity Academy Development Committee 6:30 Stephen Ministry continuing education	23	Christmas Eve 24 5:00 Pageant & Holy Eucharist 9:30 Musical Prelude 10:00 Festival Eucharist <i>Office closed</i>	Christmas Day 25 10:00 Holy Eucharist <i>Office closed</i>	26
27 9:30 Holy Eucharist with Congregational Lessons & Carols	28 <i>Office closed</i>	29 <i>Office closed</i>	30 <i>Office closed</i>	31 <i>Office closed</i>		

December 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Italics = A.M.</i> Normal type = P.M.					<i>New Year's Day</i> 1 <i>Buildings closed</i>	2
3 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Godly Play 11:30 Church School, JTA 2:00 Open House at the Rectory	4	5	<i>Feast of the Epiphany</i> 6 12:10 Holy Eucharist	7	8 <i>Office closed</i>	9 11:00 Choir School piano recital
10 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Godly Play 11:30 Church School, JTA 11:30 Adult Forum	11	12 7:00 Property Team 7:00 Outreach Team	13	14 7:00 Trinity Academy Board meeting	15 <i>Voice deadline</i> <i>Office closed</i>	16
17 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Godly Play 11:30 Church School, JTA 11:30 Adult Forum	<i>M. L. King Jr. Day</i> 18 <i>Buildings closed</i>	19 2:00 Loaves & Fishes food preparation 7:15 Vestry meeting	20 11:00 Loaves & Fishes serving crew at Immanuel Church	21	22 <i>Office closed</i>	23
24 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Godly Play 11:30 Church School, JTA 11:30 Adult Forum	25	26 5:30 Trinity Academy Development Committee 6:30 Stephen Ministry continuing education	27	28	29 <i>Office closed</i>	30
31 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Godly Play 11:30 Church School, JTA 11:30 Adult Forum						

January 2016

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