
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

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Trinity Episcopal Church Newsletter

May 2005

Letter from our Rector

Dear Friends,

A friend of mine is the Bishop of Lexington, in Kentucky. If it's possible, Lexington has been more riled up over the actions of the 2003 General Convention than Connecticut--it's a smaller diocese, so a smaller controversy makes for bigger turmoil. Here is just a bit of what Bishop Sauls said to his diocese at their convention in February (reported in *The Living Church*, a weekly publication about doings in the Episcopal Church): "I am tired of apologizing for the General Convention of 2003. You will not hear me do it again. I will acknowledge that it is possible that we did the wrong thing. What I know for a fact is that, to the extent anyone made a mistake, no one did so with any intent other than being a faithful follower of Christ, and I do not believe that even God asks more than that." He went on to say that he knows that there are those in his diocese who don't agree with his actions, and that he is not asking anyone to change their mind on the matter, but to make room for those with whom they disagree. "I am making a simple proposal," he said. "Dearest people of God, we have work to do. Let us get on with it. Keep talking to each other. Keep arguing with each other. That is what Anglicans do. But stop trying to hurt each other. That is not what Christians do."

In all my understanding of the life of the early church by studying the Bible, it is clear to me that it is important for us to get these two things straight. We can argue, we can disagree in the Church--but we must NOT try to hurt each other. The first Christians were marked as different because of the love they showed to each other and to the rest of the world. Not by being of one mind, necessarily, but by striving to be of one heart. Jesus told us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. I've often said that it is important to get that straight; otherwise, we are in danger of being mean-spirited bird brains!

I talked at some length in both services about all the press the Diocese of Connecticut is getting on Sunday, April 24th. If you weren't there or need to talk any time, please continue to reach out. I believe that God is calling the Episcopal Church and our own Trinity Church to mighty works of love and service to the world around us. We have a need to talk to each other. But we must never let our talking to each other get so loud that we can't hear the cries of those outside our doors who need hope and help and release. I pray we will always have our ears and hearts attuned to those. Blessings, and much love,

Ellen

Vestry Notes- March Meeting 2005

Treasurer's Report Cash flow low. Salaries can be covered, but not much else. About 20 people are doing the "dollar-a-day". More email addresses have been received. Motion to receive Treasurer's report seconded and passed all in favor.

Committees Four committees have been set up. Budget Monitoring, Ongoing Stewardship, Fundraising and Grants. Stewardship and Fundraising met during the vestry meeting. The convener for Stewardship is Michael Underkoffler and conveners for Fundraising are Tammy Randall and Edie Williams. Vestry members have all been placed on the various committees and parishioners are being asked to join. The next meetings for the Stewardship and Fundraising committees have been set.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

At both the 8am and 10:15am Sunday Service we offer infant to toddler Child Care in the Nursery which is located downstairs in the Church School area. Child Care is offered from 7:45am to 11:45am.

Children's & Youth Ministries

Both our children's program and our youth program are very busy this month with a variety of projects described below:

Church School Our church school members are continuing to study their fourth unit themes of: Prayer, the Book of Common Prayer, and The Catechism. Church School will hold its last classes on Sunday June 5th. Along with their studies this month our children are preparing for their third and final Fifth Sunday for the year..

Fifth Sunday, Sunday May 29th will be our final Children and Youth Sunday for this program year. Each class has a responsibility for this service. Our youngest children (PS-2nd grade) will be leading us in the communion hymn. The 3-6th graders are creating "props" for the sermon, leading us in the psalm of the day and ushering and greeting. Also there will be representatives from each grade asked to participate in the sermon with Audrey. If your child might like to be one of those participants please see Audrey or Linda Snyder. All groups will be working on their parts during their Sunday classes so please make every effort to attend this month so your children can participate in what has become very meaningful worship experiences for all ages. Our J2A groups will be writing various prayers and hosting coffee hour.

Journey to Adulthood Youth Groups

YACs~ Our oldest group of youth have just assisted the youth at St. John's, Washington to raise money at a pasta dinner for the combined group's mission trip this summer to W. Virginia where they will be working in the Highland project. Our group is fortunate to have the funds left from their pilgrimage two years ago to offset their expenses.

J2A pilgrims~ Our core group of youth are working with their leaders to design their 10 days in Nova Scotia this summer. They will be away from July 16th through the 25th. This month they will be working with their parents at the annual tag sale, Sat. May 14th, which is mentioned further in this Messenger.

Rite 13ers~ The youngest youth group will be participating in one of the curriculum's major programs for this age, a Hunger Simulation, Friday evening, May 13 followed by a sleepover in the Church and ending the next day as part of "Team Trinity" in the Bishop's Fund Race in Hartford. Don't be surprised if you're asked to contribute to their sponsor sheets for this very worthwhile event. Coming up in June is the last Rite 13 Ceremony for this group. Our dinner rehearsal will be Friday June 10th with the ceremony on Sunday June 12th. Please mark that date as it is very important to support these young people with your presence and prayers on that day.

Many of our teachers and leaders will be participating in a retreat this month on May 8th and 9th focusing on the spiritual needs of those working with children and youth. If there is anyone who might be interested in participating in this retreat (it is at Camp Washington) please speak to Linda Snyder for additional details.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Book Discussion Group see schedule below for the dates and books the group will discuss in the coming months:

All books are in our Trinity Library. They are available in paperback and at other libraries if our copy is out.

May 17th: 7:30 Pope Joan by Donna Cross. Was there really a female pope?????

July 21st: 7:30 The Dante Club by Matthew Pearl. A novel of suspense that mixes the cultures of wealthy Bostonian men of letters and the denizens of the seedy streets of that city in a mystery of the 1860's.

"The Good, the Bad... and the Difference." Tuesday Evenings in May at 7:00pm Mark your calendars now to attend one or all of these lively sessions discussing modern day social ethics, as presented in the book of the same name, by Randy Cohen. In the **New York Times Sunday Magazine**, Cohen responds to a different ethical question each week. There are some of us who are eager to jump into the discussion, and we welcome your participation! We will be drawing case studies from Cohen's book as well as from our own experience. As we work through some of these problems we hope to gain an awareness of how we make decisions, of how we order and prioritize our lives and how we determine what has value for us. In a Christian context? Yes. And No. As Christians we work

with a framework given to us in scripture to guide our lives. We will explore in our discussions how that framework may- or may not- come into play as we make decisions and move in this world. But this is not a course in Christian ethics. It is, perhaps, most importantly, an opportunity for us to see how we can remain as faithful people in an increasingly secular world which makes great demands of us in community.

Come learn more or talk to Robert Rovezzi or The Rev. Audrey Scanlan for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATE

Sun May 1 7:00pm Vespers

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend our final Vespers Service of this program year celebrating Eastertide. It is not too late to claim some of the beauty and peace in this meditative hour.

Wed May 11 1:00pm-3:00pm Knitting Group

Come for our final meeting of this program year.

Sat May 14 9:00am Men's Breakfast next month June 11(last meeting till Fall)

9:30am **Bishop's Fund for Children 5K Race**
Sign up to walk or run in the Bishop's Fund for Children 5K Race in West Hartford Center. Last year Trinity's team, led by the "first dog", Daphne Tillotson, had an impressive showing—this year we hope to get even more dogs, walkers, and runners to join. See The Reverend Audrey Scanlan or Linda Snyder to register or to sponsor our team. GO TRINITY!

Sun May 15 8:00am & 10:15am Pentecost

Celebration

Parish members are encouraged to bring a RED geranium to Worship and to wear RED to celebrate the day.

Wed May 18 following 12:10srvc Souper Seniors next month June 15

Sun May 19 7:00pm Interfaith Council Event

Dae Yen Sa Temple, New Hartford, Open House. Call for more info 860-489-3254

Fri May 20 7:00pm Women's EVE-ning

We will meet in the Undercroft Chapel for informal Bible study. All women of the parish and their friends are welcome. Call the Parish Office, 489-6027 for more information.

Mark Your Calendars! On Saturday, May 14, our J2A youth will be having a fundraising flea market. If anyone is interested in renting tables, to donate items such as books, CDs, lightly used household items or donate baked goods (no clothing or oversized heavy items), please contact Jane Serafini - 860-379-2822.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A BIRTHDAY PARTY! Sunday May 15th ~Pentecost~ is the birth of the Christian Church. It is the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who came to the disciples on the first Pentecost. It is a day to celebrate the gift of the Spirit and the gifts of the community of the body of Christ. And as we do for most birthday parties we encourage you to bring a special gift: a red geranium to decorate our space. The flowers that you provide will then be planted on the grounds of Trinity as a reminder all summer of these very special gifts of the Spirit and the community. Also remember to wear red that day!!! Come join the party-catch the spirit and fly!!

Pick a date for Altar Flowers Please consider giving altar flowers! It is a wonderful way to remember loved one, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or simply to thank God for his many blessings. The donation is \$25 per Sunday and sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. Please contact the office for available dates. Your gifts of flowers will keep the altar looking beautiful throughout the year.

Caring For Creation Gathering - Saturday May 7 on the Guilford Green from 9:30am to 2:00pm. This annual gathering is organized by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut's Committee on the Environment. This year's Gathering is co-sponsored by Christ Church, Guilford. Admission is free; bring a bag lunch. For more information contact The Reverend Norman MacLeod, 203.453.2279 cechurch@snet.net or Lynn Fulkerson of the Committee on the Environment 860.496.1427 lynnfulk@rcn.com.

Let All The World In Every Corner Sing!

Sunday, June 5, 2005 at 5:00 PM

A concert of choral masterpieces from 6 centuries presented by the choir of Trinity Episcopal Church Torrington, under the direction of Paul Halley with music by Byrd, Britten, Tavener, Górecki and Halley and featuring Vaughan Williams' "Five Mystical Songs", with Bruce Fifer, soloist

George Sovak, saxophone

Nick Halley, percussion &

Stephen Fraser, organ

Suggested Donation - \$10.00

Proceeds will benefit the Trinity Church Music Program

HERE AT TRINITY

Family News: Do you have some that you would like to share in the Messenger with the Parish?? If so, please submit in written form to the Parish Office or via email to trinity.parish.house@snet.net.

Professional office space available for rent here at Trinity. The space is located on the second floor above the Parish Office. Call the Parish office, 482-6027, for more information.

Recipe ALERT!!! Trinity Cookbook Project Underway

We have a committee (we could always use a few more), we have a few recipes turned in already, but we need a lot more to call this a cookbook. So as you plan your meals, think of the recipes you and your family love the most and make copies for us. All we ask is that if they come from a cookbook, tell us which cookbook. There is nothing wrong with reprinting recipes from other people's books. If the receipt has a family history or a good story, include that. We will have baskets clearly labeled "RECIPES" at the back of the church starting in May. For the time being, any recipe you want to submit is great. When we get enough to see where we need more, we'll let you know. If you have any questions, please call Susan Jones at 860-738-7869. If you have recipes on your computer, you can email them to Susan at sdjones@sdjones.net. **Let's get cookin', Trinity!**

THE HARDEST WORK YOU'LL EVER LOVE: If you've been around Trinity for any time at all, you will have noticed the lively presence of our teens and young people engaging with all of us in the Christian life. The

Journey to Adulthood Program is our six-year educational and formational program for teens, and is a curriculum through which they learn to become mature adults and develop a sturdy faith that will help them all their lives. We need two men and two women to come forward to take on a two-year ministry with one of the upcoming Journey classes. There is a strong curriculum in place and a well-developed support system at Trinity for your work with our teens. They will never forget you, and you will have the joy of knowing some extraordinary young people and helping them on their road to a full life. Come forward—you won't be sorry.

TIME & TALENT --- Trinity's campus is active 24/7, not only with our own activities but with the many community groups that use our space. Keeping these 100 year old buildings and grounds in shape to meet today's needs is a daunting task. Our collective hats are off to Staff members, Melanie Lay and Ken Bush for all the work that they do to keep our facility clean and in working condition. They, however, would be the first to acknowledge the considerable assistance given by a cadre of volunteers who give selflessly (and often without recognition) of their time and talent. All members of the Property Commission/Asset Committee deserve our thanks:

Roberta August

Paul Beaman

Douglas Carrier

Ray Jobin

Jack Miller

Ed Wilmot

Nanci Battistoni

Ann Bott

Gary Grant

Dick McLeod

Charlie Schapp

Many of these parishioners turn up without being asked to do needed repairs and maintenance. Some of the things they have done are: help Ken with various carpentry projects, cleaning buckets of brick and mortar dust out of the Tower, repointing bricks in the Sunday School area or the Courtyard walkway, weeding the Courtyard, getting quotes and overseeing work that needed to be contracted out, etc. Did you know that Choir members and Joyful Noise parents led by Karen Sovak, Douglas Carrier, and Gary Grant painted the ceiling and walls of the Choir room and refinished the floors on that level?

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The Property Commission and the Landscaping Task Force are planning some work days to begin landscaping our Water Street and Prospect Street areas. Can you join us? Call the office for more information.

Wood carvings by the "Cat's Meow" of our beautiful church on sale for \$ 16.00. They can be purchased by calling the Parish Office, 482-6027. All proceeds - Flag Pole project.

The Best Spiritual Books and Movies of 2004

chosen by Spirituality & Health Magazine. A copy of this list is available on the kiosk in the Parish Hall or by going to their website www.spiritualityhealth.com.

Church Budget News! We started the year with a budget deficit of \$ 64,525. At this point, the deficit is down to \$ 52,627. The groups mentioned in April's Messenger have been meeting, and there are several exciting things being planned to reduce (or eliminate?) the deficit— Stay-tuned!

Communion at Worship Celiac disease affects as many as 1 in 133 people. We at Trinity have been happy to consecrate rice wafers for communion for persons who suffer from this genetic intolerance and offer our own wheat-free wafers on request. We welcome everyone to the Lord's table. If you need communion in this form, please speak with our clergy.

Stewardship of the Environment GREEN ELECTRICITY! You may now choose one of two electrical generating companies to provide your electricity. Look carefully on this month's electric bill, and note that if you choose 100% green energy (wind, landfill gas, small hydroelectric) – it will add about \$5.00/month to your electric bill (half that if you choose 50% green energy)--- not a large cost to help restore our God-given earth.

Operation Overflow Extends Its Thanks Many thanks to the great many volunteers from Trinity Church who supported us in our second year of offering emergency housing on cold winter nights. Operation Overflow was open 120 nights this year, filling a total of 300 beds for 77 individuals. Trinity Church has provided space, volunteers, parish representatives, steering committee members and prayers to make this interfaith project of compassion a success.

TRINITY ARTS SERIES 2005

www.trinityartseries.org.

Fiber Revolution begins May 6^h Come see these stunning and unusual works of art hung throughout Torrington's historical landmark, Trinity Episcopal Church. The participating artists, exhibiting their work under the Fiber Revolution name, use fiber as their medium: dyeing it, painting it, cutting it, tearing it, stamping it, fusing it and embellishing it. The final step—quilting of the surface—brings a dimensional depth to the artwork that mere paint cannot.

Opening reception Friday , May 6 from 7:00 to 9:00pm. This event is free. Wine and appetizers served.

Don't forget Mother's Day - May 8th Come and enjoy savory and sweet pastry at our Victorian Tea on **Sunday, May 22 at 2:00pm.** This event features Women in History. Enjoy a demonstration of women's clothes from the 1860s with Jane Sabatelli, a member of the Connecticut Civil War Round Table.

Reserve tickets now \$ 10.00 each/ \$ 50.00 for a table (seats 6).

African Children's Choir June 15 7:00pm

www.africanchildrenchoir.com

Trinity Arts Series brings the phenomenal African Children's Choir to Torrington. During the past extraordinary years that the choir has been performing, they have had the opportunity to sing for worldwide television audiences, in some of the most prestigious theatres in the world, for the leaders of many nations, as well as for communities around the world. They present a stunning concert in an exuberant mix of African song and dance.

The African Children's Choir are an inspiration to all whose lives they touch. They are true ambassadors of hope and peace who bring healing to the world through their gift of music.