
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

Volume 36, Issue 2

Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington CT

February 2008

Letter to the Parish

Dear Friends,

Lent began almost as early as it can begin this year, with Ash Wednesday on February 6th. This means an early Easter, of course, March 23, when we may still have snow here in New England and spring could either be a present reality or a still hoped-for event.

During the season of Epiphany, I focused my sermons on the ministry we share as Christians, God's love renewing a broken world. In particular I chose to look at our life together as the people of God in Trinity church, and how God might be calling us to action in the world and in our own parish family.

That theme will continue in Lent, though with a particular focus. During Lent every Trinity parishioner will be given the opportunity to review and think about the work that goes on through our congregation, what we do to care for one another and what we do together to care for the world. During worship on two Sundays, an instrument listing many ministry opportunities at Trinity will be distributed and the congregation will have an opportunity to think and pray about what God might be calling each to do in response to the Divine love and the Divine call to each of us to be Christ's ministers in the world. It's a huge sign-up event, really. After Easter, we will organize these ministries and move forward together as a congregation to serve Christ even more ably and fully through the work of our church.

Something in our faith only comes alive when it turns from being a private, personal affair between us and God to an active, living, dynamic work that reaches out to others. We can only really know God as we experience God in loving service.

This can be an important and fulfilling time in our life together as a Christian community. My prayer is that each of us will know the love of God more deeply and experience the power of God in our actions. This is the work of a good and holy Lent.

With love,

Ellen

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Child Care begins Sunday mornings at 7:45am in the Nursery and is available throughout all Worship Services.

9:00am Family Worship Service

service is held each Sunday

that Church School is in session September thru June.

This service is designed for families with very young children. In this service the teachings, the songs and the prayers are aimed at the hearts and minds of our youngest members but we all learn something each week; that we are loved by this family of faith and most important, that God loves us as we are. This service runs from 9:00am to 9:30am. This informal celebration of the Eucharist that includes child-friendly prayers, abbreviated lessons and a short homily geared for family reflection. Simple joyful music. Church School follows at 9:30am.

Lenten Curriculum Focus: The Eucharist-All levels of church school will be focusing on The Eucharist during Lent in developmentally appropriate lessons. In the middle of this study, March 2nd we will hold a special Eucharist Workshop from 9:30AM until 11:30AM (or end of 10:30AM service). The children will be learning the story of the first Eucharist~our Eucharist Prayer~Elements of the Eucharist and More!! Some hands on activities will reinforce our theme and will include: designing and creating: a chalice and paten~an altar cloth~a stole~baking altar bread. Because there are many supplies needed for this workshop we ask that you sign up with your child's teacher or call the Office by Feb. 24th.

Other Upcoming Activities for our children in March:

3/2 Eucharist Workshop

3/16 Palm Sunday "Road to Jerusalem" Palm waving, Children' Stations of the Cross (chapel time)

3/23 Easter Sunday "Alleluia" Christ Has Risen! Workshop

4/6 Fifth Sunday-children and youth led service

Lenten MDG Outreach Project- Each Lent, Trinity Church School provides an opportunity for children and families to participate together in an outreach activity. This year's Lenten Outreach Project will support our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. Each child received a *Hope Chest box* in their Church School Class on February 10th (Lent I)(addtl. are available just ask teacher).With it will be two types of opportunities for your child to participate in this project.

One project, which we call "*Kids helping Kids*", will be asking adults (family, friends, parishioners, etc) to sponsor them to read during Lent. Depending on their reading level, sponsors will be asked to donate by book or by chapter. If a child does not wish to read but would like to participate there is also a calendar enclosed with the mite box to use during Lent with activities for the home. Maybe our children will do both!!

As the children add coins to the Hope Chests they will be working together with the rest of their class to collect enough money to purchase some of the valuable items in the Episcopal Relief and Development catalog called Gifts for Life. The children will bring their boxes back by March 30th. During class they will count their money and choose what they would like to purchase for some of the more than 1 billion people who live on less than \$1.00 a day. They might choose one or more of the following examples in the *Gifts for Life* catalog:

\$15 for a Mosquito Net to help a family reduce their chances for malaria

\$20 of drought resistant seedlings to help provide a good harvest and food for a community

\$75 to educate a child orphaned by HIV/AIDS for a year

\$25 for a flock of chickens to provide fresh eggs and a steady income



\$25 to help provide clean water and health training to families

\$220 provides the Basics for Life package which includes a gift for all 4 seasons water in the spring, insecticide-treated nets in the summer, drought resistant seeds in the fall and micro-credit loans to start small businesses in the winter.

Please take some time to go to the Episcopal Relief and Development website at www.er-d.org/giftsforlife to look at all the many simple yet important ways we can help eradicate poverty in our world.



J2A Youth Program Our J2A group would like to thank all those who purchased chili on Super Bowl Sunday. They were able to add approximately \$600.00 to their pilgrimage fund.

Leaders Needed There is still a need for a female adult to help lead this program for the next 2 ½ years. If you might be interested please speak with Conrad Sienkiewicz, Roger Coutant, or Linda Snyder. Past leaders who you might want to ask about the experience would be: Faye Tway-Grant, Marcia Lee Allen, Maria Skinner, and Mary Hart.

Rhythms of Grace is an ecumenical church experience for all learning types. A place to dance, draw, wiggle and rest in God. We are presently looking for additional adults who might be interested in helping in this ministry. If you might have an interest in this please speak with Linda Snyder or Ellen. Our next service is Sunday, March 2.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Men's Breakfast Group ...Gathering on Saturday, February 16 - 9am -in the Upper Parish Hall.

Farm fresh eggs, toast, coffee, and conversation.

Please RSVP by calling Conrad,738-3337, letting him know that you are attending as well as what breakfast item you will be bringing. This will help him plan for the morning.

Women's EVE-nings is a gathering of women on a chosen Friday at 7:00 PM in the Library. It is a warm and lively group who explore our religious convictions, people, often women, of the Bible, and sometimes other religions and their relationship to Christianity. The next meeting is Friday, March 28.

Book Discussion Group The following books have been chosen for discussion during the next several months. There is plenty of time to join the bandwagon. Many of our new dates fall on Tues. or Wed. in the hope that choir members might be tempted to join us. The discussions are fun. We serve tea and meet at 7:30pm at church. All of these books have been extremely well reviewed in the press. They are out in paperback and available at your local library.

Tues. Feb. 26th: Special Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl. This novel of a precocious young girl and her widowed father, an itinerant professor, was one of the N.Y. Times' 10 best books of the year. It revolves around literary discussions between the two as they travel, each chapter being titled after a book or author. There is mystery too as the girl's favorite teacher is found dead on page one. One reviewer called it "an exhilarating synthesis of the classic and the modern...that will leave the reader salivating for more."

Tues. April 1st: The Master by Colm Toibin. A "hybrid" of biography and fiction concerning the author Henry James, this was chosen as one of the 10 best books of the year by The Book Review.

Tues. May 13th: Snow by Orhan Pamuk. The protagonist, in this seventh novel from Turkey's beloved author, returns to Turkey after an absence of 12 years and explores his country's "divided soul" by investigating a wave of suicides in a small village among young girls who were forbidden to wear their headscarves. Reviewer Margaret Atwood called it "an engrossing feat of tale-spinning" and "essential reading for our times".

Date to be announced: What is What by Dave Eggers. This is a retelling in novel form of the story of one of the lost boys who escaped the violence of his small village in the Sudan and finally made his way to the U.S. The N.Y. Times' reviewer said "The considerable appeal of Valentino's (the hero) personality and the force of Eggers's talent turn this eyewitness account of a terrible tragedy into a paradoxically pleasurable experience...An eloquent testimony to the power of storytelling, "What is What" is an extraordinary work of witness and of art."

Questions and Theology This group is open to anyone interested in exploring what's new in the talk of God and God's action in The World. The next meeting date is to be determined. Please prepare by reading *The Phoenix Affirmations* by Eric Elnes.

Reconciliation - A Lenten Study Wednesdays during Lent starting Wednesday, February 20 in the Upper Parish Hall. Two sessions... pick the one that works for you:

Afternoons 1:30pm to 3:00pm

or

Evenings- 7:00 to 8:30pm

with simple supper at 6:30pm

Lent is a time to renew our relationship with God, with our deepest selves, with those we love and with the wider world. Come and reflect on many aspects of reconciliation in your own life and in the wider world. Share with others on a journey toward wholeness. Please sign up by calling the Parish office, 482-6027 or on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

Reading during Lent We will be taking orders for the book entitled *The Last Week* by authors Marcus Borg and John Crossan. A discussion of the book will be held on Monday, March 17 at 7:00pm in the Living Room. Those interested in this discussion, please sign up or call the parish office so we know how many book to order. The cost of this book is between \$ 12 - \$ 15. There is also a list of other reading suggestions in the back of church with sign-up sheets for ordering in Upper Parish Hall.

Lenten Retreat has been booked for the week-end of March 07-09, 2008 at the Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY. Cost is \$ 194 per person which includes a guided program. We need a minimum of 8 participants. Those interested in attending please RSVP to the Parish Office by submitting a check payable to Trinity Church in the amount of \$35.00 (a non-refundable deposit) with balance due on or before January 20, 2008. For questions regarding this Retreat please call Conrad at 738-3337.

Stephen Ministry Supervision and Continuing Education Program will meet on Tuesday evenings. The schedule for our next few meetings are: February 19; March 11.

HERE AT TRINITY

Parish reminders...

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

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

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

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

Altar Flowers/Easter Holiday Memorials The Parish Office will gladly accept your donations for Easter Memorials throughout the season of Lent. Donations for music will go towards the cost of special soloists or other musical artists. Please indicate on your check in the memo section, your choice— flowers or music and the name of your loved one. Donation envelopes are available in back of church and in the Parish Hall. Donations may be placed in the collection plate or mailed to the Parish Office.

Parishioner Contact information: Marine Gabe Grant has been deployed to the Middle East. To say your "Hello's" you may email or write to his address below:

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

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

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

Trinity Fund-raiser Scrip Pre-Paid Cards... Order your cards BETWEEN worship services in the Upper Parish Hall, or DURING THE WEEK by visiting the Parish Office. If you're able to help in this effort, speak to Lydia Babbitt.

Continental Breakfast offered following our three (3) worship services.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2



This is an extremely important ministry as you are one of the first "welcoming" elements for our family members or a newcomer on Sunday mornings.

Continental Breakfast is being offered following our three (3) Worship Services.

We are in need of Host/Hostesses to make coffee and set-up the prepared items following our 8am and 10:30am Worship Services.

Duties and Instructions follow.

Staple items will be readily available for the Host/Hostess to plate and present. They can be found either on the kitchen counters or in the Parish Hall refrigerator; generally they are: bagels, cream cheese, butter, peanut butter/jelly and fresh fruit.

Host/Hostesses of Coffee Hour are asked to bring baked goods; options may be coffee cakes, cookies, cup cakes, specialty breads etc. and are responsible to make coffee and clean up afterwards. There are ziplock bags, plastic wrap and foil available in or above the drawer to the left of the refrigerator.

Instructions for making the coffee are posted on the Kitchen Cabinet closest to the coffee maker. Coffee items, sugar, creamer etc are supplied and are in the refrigerator or the storage cabinet.

The Sign up Sheet to be Host/Hostess are in the Upper Parish Hall.

Those that sign up for the 8am are asked to prepare offerings by the end of the service so that those exiting the Church service or arriving for the 9am service will find them available.

Those that sign up for 10:30am are asked to prepare offerings by the end of the service. Items left over from the earlier services will also be offered at this time. These individuals are also responsible for final clean up of coffee, dishes, and foods. Food items that can be saved should be

placed in plastic bags or containers and placed in refrigerator/freezer.

Being a coffee hour Host/Hostess takes little effort other than asking you to arrive a little earlier to prepare for your guests and to supply a few baked goods.

Won't you consider this fun rewarding opportunity to mingle with fellow worshipers and to offer hospitality to one another. Please sign up! Sign up sheet in Upper Parish Hall.

Operation Overflow Shelter desperate for Overnight Volunteers ...This a shelter that opens in the winter months when the FISH shelter on South Main Street is full. Since the shelter opened we need numerous men and women overnight volunteers to spend evenings with our guests. New Volunteers will be trained prior to their assigned evening. Monetary donations are also needed. Checks may be written to Operation Overflow and forwarded C/O Trinity Church, 220 Prospect Street, Torrington 06790. Call the Parish Office 482-6027 for more information.

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

Parishioner Parking Stickers - Did you know we have them???? Although, you may only park in our Parking lot to attend Sunday Worship, during the week our parking lot is used by the public when they choose not to use the street meter parking while attending their class at the YMCA or doing their errands in town. To assist us in the monitoring of the lot and to ensure available parking for our Parishioners during the week, we encourage you to obtain a Parking Sticker by contacting the Parish Office, 482-6027 or pick one up at Sunday Coffee Hour.

Stephen Ministry Corner "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galations 6:2

We all experience challenges in life-times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty. We have a group of trained Stephen Ministers that are ready to give caring, confidential care to someone in the church and/or community that needs a non-judging, prayerful individual to walk with them in times of trouble or confusion. Their identity will remain confidential, what

takes place in the caring relationship remains private. Jane St. Pierre and Mary Hart are Stephen leaders and would be happy to provide information on Stephen Ministry to those who would like a Stephen Minister, would like to become a Stephen Minister or just want more information on the program in general. Please talk to them sometime-they welcome all inquiries! Their contact information is available through the Trinity office. Look for more information monthly in the Stephen Ministry Corner!

Trinity Arts Series 2008 Season

Saturday, April 19, 2008

An evening of Gershwin music played by pianist Paul Bisaccia

Saturday, May 10, 2008

A concert on Trinity's outstanding organ by Nicholas White, Trinity's Organist & Director of Music.

Messages from Caring for Creation...



This new logo was created by Carol Taylor. The Caring for Creation Committee thanks her for her generous gift of time & talent!

Caring For Creation Corner

Trinity has an active group of parishioners concerned about the environment, dedicated to opening our eyes to all the ways we can become responsible stewards of God's creation. Please join us to find out how you as an individual or Trinity as a congregation can make a difference on how we impact our Mother Earth. The Caring for Creation Committee is meeting on Monday, February 25 at 7:15 in the Library. All are invited to attend our meetings.

Caring for Creation invites all on Sunday Feb. 24, after the 10:30 service coffee hour, to a viewing of the interesting documentary, *The Warming of Connecticut*, which has been shown on CPTV. We will watch this one-hour film after 10:30 service coffee hour. It's informative and filled with positive ideas for change.

About the film: The majority of scientists worldwide agree that global warming is the most pressing issue of our time. Here at home, the warming of Conn. is predicted to change our state as we know it. The greenhouse gases that we have been emitting over decades are changing our climate as we speak. The decisions we make today and over the next decade will determine the severity of warming. But this is also a story of hope. The documentary includes thoughts and ideas from individuals,

communities and organizations around the state that are leading the movement toward a more sustainable society, and offer suggestions on how all Conn. residents can make a difference.

The Eagles Have Landed... In all of their majestic beauty. Join us on a visit to the Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area in Southbury On Saturday March 1. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and plan to car pool from the Church parking lot. Plan to leave the parking lot my 9:00. This is a wonderful family outing and best of all it is free. Reservations are required, so sign up in the Upper Parish Hall or contact Nanci Battistioni for more information (485-9779 or nancibat@yahoo.com).

Stewardship of the Earth Environmental Covenant

* It is the environmental policy of this parish .We are the Body of Christ, God's people. We acknowledge that everything in the created order comes from God, including our very lives. As God's people, we have been entrusted with the care of the creation. We seek to be faithful stewards of this responsibility.

* Environmental stewardship is about our covenant with the Creator and our mission to heal the broken and defend the oppressed. It is about our personal response to the call to live in relationship not only with God but with all that God has created.

* The focus of our environmental stewardship will be on the parish as a whole, its individual members, groups which use the parish buildings, and the wider community.

* We expect all parish and outside groups which use our buildings to abide by the environmental policy and practices which we have adopted.

* In addition, we invite individual members of the parish to adopt similar policies and practices in their homes and workplaces.

* to, in so far as it is possible, encourage the faithful use of the three r's (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) in the living out of our stewardship of God's creation, practicing environmentally sound and energy efficient lifestyle behaviors that discourage wasteful consumption and encourage the recycling of material resources.

Therefore, our church will implement the following actions:

1. Provide recycling bins to be regularly used for the collection of newspaper, office paper, computer paper, corrugated cardboard, steel cans, aluminum, glass and plastic.

2. Use ceramic or glassware where possible; non-coated paper cups or plates being acceptable substitutes.

3. Photocopy both sides of paper where possible.

4. Use recycled papers and non-toxic dyes for printing whenever possible

5. Adopt energy conservation measures throughout our building.

6. Consider non-polluting or less polluting energy sources, weighing the costs to the church versus the cost to the environment and to human health.

7. All committees serving our church will consider the environmental impact of their work.

Green Tips for February...

EPPN Lenten Series: For the Beauty of the Earth

The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) invites you to join us in a Lenten discipline focusing on care of creation. The EPPN will provide six weeks of education, opportunities for advocacy, and ideas for simple steps you can take in your home and your church "For the Beauty of the Earth." See our video ad and learn more at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/climate>

Too many catalogs? The average US household receives 41 lbs. of catalogs a year.

Go to www.catalogchoice.org to end the madness. It is a simple process. You choose which catalogs you no longer want to receive. It is confidential. The program is sponsored by the Ecology Center and they do not sell or use your name and address. Take a few minutes and put your mailbox on a diet.

Step Away from the Chemicals: Commercial All Purpose cleaners may contain chlorinated phosphates (can form compounds which in turn are stored in fat cells and can enter mother's milk), Morpholine (a liver and kidney poison), Phosphates (causes algae bloom) and much more. Here is a substitute:

Plain & Simple Spray Cleaner: Combine 1 tsp. Borax, 2 TB. Vinegar, 2 cups hot water. Combine ingredient in the spray bottle. Shake gently until the ingredients dissolve. Spray onto area to be cleaned and wipe off with a sponge or cloth.

(borrowed from [Clean & Green](#) by Annie Berthold-Bond)

Save Money and your health. Anti-mildew Scouring Powder: 2/3 cup baking soda, 1/3 cup borax. Place the baking soda and the borax in a bowl. Dampen a sponge, scoop the mixture up with the sponge and rub onto the surface to be cleaned. If the spot being cleaned is really moldy, you might try scouring the area with straight borax, but before you rinse, let the mineral "rest" on the area for a couple of hours. Rinse well. (borrowed from Clean & Green by Annie Berthold-Bond)

