
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

Volume 36, Issue 3

Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington CT

March 2008

Letter to the Parish

Dear Friends,

In this Messenger you will find the schedule of services for the next couple of weeks as we prepare to hear again the news of the Resurrection and God's plan of abundant life for each and all. Easter is the center of the church's message and celebration; when we gather each Sunday, we celebrate a 'little Easter.' We are a community organized around the celebration of Christ's rising from the dead.

We try, at Trinity, to make the events of Holy Week and Easter come alive in our worship. Much of what we do is more dramatic than usual. It is a time of year when I often point out that the liturgy itself is a kind of sermon. In the doing, we learn about the meaning of what we are doing on many levels. The liturgies get Easter into our bones.

So I hope that you will make the time to get new life into your bones this year. I hope that you will find yourself processing on Palm Sunday to the children's shouts of Hosanna! and hear in the Passion Gospel the narrative of your own salvation. I hope that many of you will take part in the book discussion of *The Last Week* on Monday, and that you will lament the coming darkness at *Tenebrae* on Wednesday night. (The music for *Tenebrae* is Thomas Tallis' *Lamentations of Jeremiah*, a piece written with the words of the *Tenebrae* service but rarely sung in the context of the *Tenebrae* liturgy except here at Trinity). I look forward to welcoming you to our parish family meal and ceremonial Seder on Maundy Thursday before the commemoration of the Last Supper and service of Footwashing. Keep vigil with your faith family on Good Friday from Noon to Three (this year I am leading all of the meditations—a project I've wanted to try for some time.) Bring your bells to worship on Saturday night as we hear the whole story of our salvation at the Great Vigil of Easter as we celebrate the night when we are "delivered from the gloom of sin and raised to holiness of life," as the Exsultet proclaims. And then, on Sunday morning, an early Easter this year, we rejoice together at the celebration of God's astounding reversal of evil to unbelievable joy in the celebration of Jesus' rising from

death to life and taking us along with him in that resurrection.

It's a journey worth walking and the destination—light and life and hope and the joy of God's love—is our heart's true home. Blessings, and much love,

Ellen

Plans for the Rector's continuance of her sabbatical in April and May are still being shaped—look for a letter to follow to the parish just after Easter.

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.

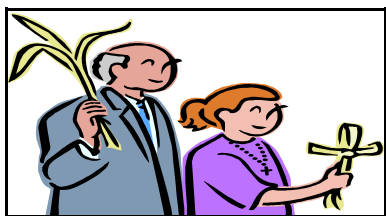
Church School During Lent our church school children are working on our **Lenten MDG Outreach Project** "Kids helping Kids". Each child received a *Hope Chest* box in their Church School Class on February 10th, they are asking for adults to sponsor their reading during Lent. Depending on their reading level, sponsors are asked to donate by book or by chapter. If a child does not wish to read but would like to participate there was also a calendar enclosed with the mite box to use during Lent with activities for the home.

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.

Resources the Easter and Pentecost seasons as well as ideas to continue your faith at home during the summer months will be available on the parent's table by the Chapel beginning Palm Sunday.

Our church school participated in a **Eucharist Workshop** on Sunday, March 2nd. During the workshop we learned about the first Eucharist, The Last Supper, and each child had a chance to "present and receive" practicing the words and actions. Breaking into smaller groups the children had the opportunity to learn about; vestments, vessels, and the elements up close and then creating their own versions of: stoles, chalices and patens, and bread and "wine" (grape juice). All seemed to learn and enjoy the experiences. Take a moment during coffee hour to look at the pictures in the Upper Parish Hall.

-Curriculum Palm Sunday's curriculum will focus on Holy Week and Easter. April 30th classes will focus on our Fifth Sunday service with our Eucharist unit continuing thereafter.



On Palm Sunday, 16th, there will be NO 9:00 AM service.

Church School will begin at 9:30 as usual. We will be making green tissue paper palms branches in each classroom to use in the **Road to Jerusalem Procession prior to the 10:30AM service.** The children will don costumes at the end of class and will meet in the Chapel. All will go up together for the **Blessing of the Palms.** Once they are blessed we will move outside and line the walkway in the courtyard. As the choir and church participants pass through we will yell "Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, or Hosanna in the Highest". When all have processed through we will go back to the Chapel to leave the costumes. Those who would like to stay (any age) can stay and participate in our **Chapel program** where we will be focusing on the events of Holy Week

leading up to Easter. At approximately the "Sign of the Peace" all will join their parents. If you have any questions please speak with Linda Snyder about this program.



Easter Rejoicing Children's Program April 16, during part of the 10:30AM Service- Our children (up to age 10) are invited to join us

in the church school area. We will be hearing about Easter through storytelling, song, and movement, a craft activity, and an Easter Egg Hunt. The program will take place during the Liturgy of the Word with your children joining you at the Sign of the Peace to partake in the first Eucharist of Easter.

Holy Week and Easter Family and Children Opportunities

There are many opportunities to participate in the life of our community here at Trinity during Holy Week and the Easter Season. All families of children and youth will shortly receive a letter detailing the services and events during Holy Week and Easter which are designed to be inclusive of children and youth. Please take a moment to review the letter and enclosures so you can become familiar with the opportunities for you to enhance you and your family's Easter worship. If you have not received the letter please contact the office and they can email or mail you a copy. Also if you have any questions please feel free to contact the Office.

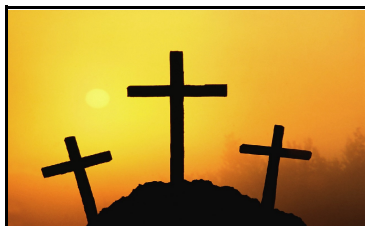
Church School- There will be no formal church school classes on Easter Sunday but our Easter Rejoicing Program is open to all children up to the age of 10. Church School will resume on Sunday, March 30th as we prepare for our last Fifth Sunday of the program year, on Sunday April 6th.

Fifth Sunday, Sunday April 6 during the 10:30AM Service: Many classes have already begun to plan, design, and practice their parts in what has become a very meaningful, spirit-filled Sunday worship experience for all ages. Please do plan to attend Church School on March 30th for our final preparations and April 6th as we celebrate.

Journey to Adulthood Program

J2A Pilgrims – Our J2A group recently held a bake sale to raise money to participate in the Kids Helping Kids MGDs Lenten Outreach Project. They raised \$165.00. Thank you to all who donated and those who purchased bake goods. They will be having another sale on Fifth Sunday, April 6th.

J2A Pilgrims and YACs have been invited to join St. Paul's, Southington teenagers on Good Friday, March 21st to participate in St. Paul's teen sponsored Good Friday Service.



This is open to anyone who might wish to participate so if you might like to join us please speak with Linda Snyder.

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, April 6.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Men's Breakfast Group ...Gathering on Saturday, March 15 - 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.

Thurs. April 17th: 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.

Reading during Lent Book entitled The Last Week by authors Marcus Borg and John Crossan will be discussed on Monday, March 17 at 7:00pm in the Living Room.

Stephen Ministry Supervision and Continuing Education Program will meet on Tuesday evenings. The schedule for our next few meetings are: March 11; April 1; April 22.

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.parish.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.

Thank you... Dear Friends of Trinity, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all your prayers, well wishes, countless food deliveries and telephone calls. I am so grateful for my army of angels and their continuous prayers. Your support has provided me with strength and courage. Thank you all so very much. Heidi Greenlaw and Family

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. Please find an enclosed donation envelope. Donation envelopes also available in back of church and in the Parish Hall. Donations may be placed in the collection plate or mailed to the Parish Office.



Trinity Parish...
You and your family are invited to a Seder Dinner in the Upper Parish Hall on Maundy Thursday, March 20, 2008. Gathering in the Upper Parish Hall at 5:30pm. We ask that you arrive promptly.

Supervised children's table prior to meal with activities focusing on the Passover Story.

For those who haven't joined us at our annual Seder in the past, you may ask:

WHAT IS IT?

The evening begins at 5:30pm with the gathering of the Parish in the Upper Parish Hall for light hors d'oeuvres.

The evening tells the story of the Passover and uses prayer, story and symbolic foods to remember God's saving acts at the Exodus. Participants enjoy a meal prepared by Trinity's staff as part of the celebration. We hope you and your family will be able to join us. The Seder will end approximately at 7:30pm.

Suggested donation of \$10 for the Seder Dinner to help defray costs.

A service of Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing follows the Seder Dinner at 8:00pm

Child care is available in our Nursery

If you are planning to attend sign up or please call the parish Office 482-6027 no later than Monday, March 17

**COME AND SHARE
LENT & EASTER
WITH US**

Palm Sunday March 16

8:00 & 10:30am

*Holy Eucharist &
Palm Procession*

No 9am Family Service

Wednesday, March 19

8pm

Tenebrae Service

Monastic service of readings & music in
the shadows of the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday, March 20

5:30pm

Parish gathering in Upper Parish Hall
followed by Seder Dinner in Upper Parish
Hall. All Trinity Parish members and their
friends are invited to attend.

If you are attending please call parish office,
482-6027.

8pm

*Holy Eucharist &
Foot Washing*

Good Friday, March 21

from 12:00 - 3:00pm

The Seven Words

Readings, meditations & hymns

** participate as your schedule allows*

Easter Eve, Saturday, March 22

8:00pm

The Great Vigil

First Celebration of the Resurrection

Easter Day, Sunday, March 23

at 8:00 & 10:30am

Mass for the Resurrection



Trinity Arts Series presents pianist Paul Bisaccia in "Gershwin by Bisaccia" on Saturday, April 19, 2008, 7:30 PM. This concert will include lots of standard and favorites such as Swanee, S'Wonderful, and I Got Rhythm as well as the seldom played original solo piano version

of Rhapsody in Blue that Mr. Bisaccia played in the PBS Special, "Gershwin by Bisaccia". Although Gershwin's music is well known, this concert will also include seldom played original solo piano arrangements that Gershwin himself made. Preferred seating ticket prices are \$15. and open seating is \$10. Call 860 485 0211 for tickets.

Paul Bisaccia is a charismatic performer whose highly accessible program appeals to a wide audience. He is one of those rare recitalists who can be entertaining without compromising the music or his artistic standards. He will provide a little history, more humor and many anecdotes about Gershwin that will make the man who made the music come alive for an evening. An intimate evening such as this is how Gershwin himself performed his pieces for friends.

**1Trinity 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

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 Volunteers You are invited to attend a "Thank You Volunteers" party on Thursday, April 10th at The Pope John Paul Pastoral Center, at St Francis, 160 Main Street, Torrington from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Please join us for some refreshments and an opportunity to meet other Operation Overflow Volunteers.

Hope to see you at the "Thank You Volunteers" party. If you are planning to attend kindly call 482-6027.

*** HOPE * HOPE * HOPE * HOPE * HOPE ***

An event for all ages. Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:15pm. Potluck supper, beverages provided. Special program for children. Presentation by Gail Farrar, RN and The Reverend Carolyn Dukinski. Save the date. More details to follow. Questions call Carolyn at 491-8819.

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.

Tax Rebate Info.... In order to get your Stimulus Payment from the Federal Government you need to file a tax return. Even if you don't normally file a tax return

because you don't have enough income **THIS YEAR** you must file a tax form with the IRS for 2007 to be considered for a Stimulus Payment. Hand-outs with more information about the Stimulus Payment are available in the back of church, can be obtained in the church office or visit the IRS website www.IRS.gov .

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!

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 Tuesday, April 1 at 7:15 in the Living Room. All are invited to attend our meetings.

Green Tips for March...

Making environmentally friendly decisions in everyday life is quite easy.

* **Pack a Waste-free Lunch:** Reuse containers and reduce waste. Did you know that one kid's average school lunch generates **67 pounds over a year?** There are lots of ways you can cut back on lunch waste (and save money). Buy chips, cookies, crackers, applesauce, cheese, and other food in bulk, not single-serving packages; Use a reusable water bottle for your beverage and pack it in a long lasting reusable lunch bag. (borrowed from Smithsonian National Zoo Green Team Tips)

* **Did you know** if every household in the U.S. replaced just one roll of 180-sheet virgin-fiber paper towels with 100-percent recycled paper towels, we could save: 1.4 million trees, 3.7 million cubic feet of landfill space, and 526 million gallons of water, and prevent 89,400 pounds of pollution?

* **Reduce paper use when cleaning.** Use natural fiber sponges & machine-washable dishcloths rather than paper towels. This also saves you money. (Better Homes& Gardens, March 2008)

* **Don't be a drip!** A leaky faucet that fills a coffee cup in ten minutes will waste an estimated 3,000 gallons of water a year. These little leaks not only waste water but cost you a lot of money. (borrowed from Smithsonian National Zoo Green Team Tips)

* **Tire Inflation:** Did you know 50 to 80 percent of tires are underinflated? Underinflated tires waste up to five percent of a car's fuel. How much fuel would we save if we properly inflated our tires? Up to two billion gallons a year!(borrowed from Smithsonian National Zoo Green Team Tips)

Turn off your screen saver. Did you know the EPA has estimated that using a computer's "sleep mode" reduces its energy consumption by 60 to 70 percent and, on a large scale, ultimately could save enough electricity each year to power Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, cut electric bills by \$2 billion, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by the equivalent of five million cars? A screen saver that displays moving images causes your monitor to consume as much electricity as it does in active use. (borrowed from Smithsonian National Zoo Green Team Tips)

Parish News

Baptisms -

Aurora Correll on March 30

Deaths

Bill Doremus

"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them."

