

Trinity Episcopal Church
1734 Huntington Turnpike
Nichols, CT 06611
(203) 375-1503

Fax: (203) 377-8202

E-mail: trinitynichols@charter.net Website: www.trinitynichols.org

8am Holy Communion Rite I 10am Holy Communion Rite II
10am Church School

TRUMPET

January / February 2011

The Vicar's Voice

*"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes I will remember your miracles of long ago." Ps 77:11
"....and be thankful" Colossians 3:15*

It is a New Year – already, and how many times have we said “Happy New Year!” But is it? Are you annoyed by so much snow? Or NOT so happy about this seasonably COLD weather? (It is not my favorite either!)

However, we can have a happy new year if we take the words of scripture to heart. To “remember the deeds of the Lord” is vital. Many of us have challenges in various arenas; family relationships, health, finances and others. Life is a journey – and that walk always has its ups and downs, but God is present, walking right with us. Just as he was present with Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness, and provided for them on their journey to the Promised Land, he will provide for us.

This does not mean, however, that sacrifices from us will not be required. We need to seek God and his wisdom, everyday in order to make Godly choices, choices that will prosper us.

St. Paul has great advice to us regarding our daily walk as people of God. In Colossians 3 he gives us rules for Holy living; “clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience”, and additionally encourages us to be forgiving. But over all these virtues he

adds, “Put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity”. (Read Colossians 3:12-15 also vs. 5-11).

He tells St. Timothy to “rebuke and encourage” others in his ministry (2 Timothy 4:2) meaning to me that we need to kindly correct when wrong is done (parents take note!) but encourage the good behavior that we all are capable to do. It requires a choice by us each day to choose the “right” and encourage that-gently- in others. Life is easier when we spend time with God and remember all the situations he has gotten us through before today’s “challenges”, and trust him to work in and through us.

Most of all, the three words “and be thankful” are guides for our day. It is my new year’s resolution to be thankful for all the blessings God has given me, and the blessings given us as a church. By God’s Grace we have met many challenges, and we will meet many more before the next “Happy New Year”.

I am making my choice each day to be thankful, and to pray without ceasing for God to guide and provide for us. I pray you do too and that we all have a very happy and prosperous 2011.

Blessings, Rev Ellen

From The Deacon's Desk

One my favorite times of the year is winter, perhaps it is my Scandinavian heritage. I love the beauty of new fallen snow; a walk all bundled up at night in the cold and sitting in front of a fire when it is cold out. All my life I have liked to sleep all snuggled up under a heavy quilt in a cold bedroom. I suppose this has come from my childhood, where during the winter the heat in the house was turned down during the night; it provided me security. I can only imagine how the young children of battered women feel when they fall asleep under the quilts Kathleen Miranti made.

A year ago I received a letter from Deacon Diane Caggiano (she is a Deacon at St. Andrews Church in Meriden) wondering if Trinity would be interested starting a new ministry called "Blankets for Babies". It is a ministry where blankets are made by the

parish and distributed to domestic violence shelters around Christmas, after being blessed during a church service. This year Kathleen Miranti under took the challenge and made 12 blankets which were blessed in December and delivered to The Umbrella – Birmingham Group which runs the battered woman's shelter in Ansonia. Deb Robison also made several fleece pillows to go with these quilts.

I thank Kathleen & Deborah for all the time and effort they put into making these gifts. I can only imagine how the young children feel when they snuggle under the blanket on these cold nights.

Peace,
Deacon Knute

Warden's Letter

Happy New Year to our Trinity family, we wish everybody a happy and healthy 2011!

Well we finished off 2010 with quite a flourish; we had a very successful Winter Fair, serving hot chocolate to the annual Jingle Bell runners, and Christmas books and advent calendars to the children; we also did wonderfully well with the Fair, many thanks to all who donated their possessions, their baking and their time. This was a great outreach effort to our local community and to add 'a few bob to the old coffer' doesn't hurt either!

We got the windows in! Many thanks to the Right Honorable Senior Warden who shepherded the project to completion. No longer will the 8 o'clockers have to huddle around the coffee pot in their furs

combating the arctic temperatures of the church hall. From now on it's a toasty 61 degrees every Sunday; that'll pull 'em in!

Finally we ended the year with another splendid Christmas season at Trinity, the children (and dog) once again riveted the full house with a touching Christmas pageant, and on Christmas Eve, Reverent Ellen's rendition of the 'Night before Christmas' with the children, sent everybody home with the spirit and joy of that holy night.

Now we're on to the Annual Meeting. Please be sure to attend as there some important issues to discuss.

Yours in Christ,
Simon and Dave

Treasurer's Letter

If you sent a 2011 pledge card into the church office, THANK YOU! The amounts on your pledge cards are the foundation of the parish's income upon which the budget

rests. Other sources of income to Trinity's operating accounts are much less. A little comes from interest earned on our investments. The use our facility is extended as an outreach to the community

and donations that are offered in thanksgiving are gratefully accepted.

We all want to be good stewards of income and assets, yet expenses everywhere regularly go up. Personal home budgets are tough to maintain, and I remind you that our parish and diocese face those same issues as a house of God. The financial support of all parishioners is absolutely necessary to sustain the parish. Yet formulating a budget is very tedious when guessing, substitutes for a definite commitment of support.

If you don't usually declare a pledge, please know that it is a commitment to Christ. The purpose of a Church is for Christians to have a place for corporate worship and to strengthen their faith and then gather others into reconciliation with God through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Trinity needs a commitment from you. We need to exercise greater fiscal stewardship in these tight times while meeting our responsibilities and commitments to each other and the diocese.

The quickest and most prudent alternative when monetary resources become more scarce is usually to do it oneself, OURSELVES. Some of us have lost jobs, some get a reduced income or none at all;

Church School

Join us after church on Sunday, February 13 for an extended coffee hour as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day together and to share our support for Operation Gratitude.

Operation Gratitude is a program that seeks to lift morale and put smiles on faces by sending care packages addressed to individual Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed in harm's way. Care packages contain food, hygiene products, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation, all wrapped with good wishes of love and support. Through Collection Drives, Letter Writing Campaigns and Donations of funds for shipping expenses, **Operation Gratitude** provides civilians

others are living on retirement incomes. So share what you do have - physical stewardship (aka talent and presence) when money is short. One way is by tending to the church grounds including mowing the grass instead of hiring a vendor. Do you have a riding lawn mower? Or know where we can get a used one at a good price?

We are looking into purchasing a mower and managing the lawn care ourselves. Could you volunteer to help with lawn mowing and save us some money?

Working alongside each other at Trinity will develop richer relationships. There are fixed expenses we just can't get around, but laboring with love for our God and His Son on these three acres will certainly reap a variety of rewards, including growing our community at Trinity.

Taking care of ourselves and our property enhances relationships and keeps the bills down. To be a self-sustaining parish, we need to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure; and most of all grow our "treasured" relationship with Jesus Christ.

Treasurer, Arlene Stalvey

anywhere in America a way to express their respect and appreciation to the men and women of the U.S. Military in an active, hands-on manner.

Please use the sign-up on the bulletin board to share a brunch item. Suggested foods are baked goods such as muffins, breads or coffee cake, bagels, doughnuts, cheese and crackers, fruit, veggies and dip or small sandwiches. Craft stations will be set-up to make cards for our shut-ins and soldiers, decorate a heart cupcake, or make a craft to give to your Valentine.

Looking ahead, there will be a table for children to do crafts and coloring at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on March 8.

Teacher volunteers are needed! A Sign-up is posted on the bulletin board. You do not need to be a parent to volunteer... all supplies and teaching materials will be prepared and ready each Sunday. Please consider this meaningful ministry.

I am so blessed to work with such wonderful families. Thank you for sharing your family and time with me as we continue to teach our children to live a life filled with faith and the love of God.

Miss. Brenda

Altar Guild

12 Days of Christmas

As I was putting away my Christmas decorations I was thinking about Epiphany. My mother always made sure we took down the Christmas tree and decorations by this date. I learned on Wikipedia.com some people believe that to ensure good luck for the coming year, it is important to consume all of the edibles from the Christmas festivities, and take down all of the Christmas decorations by Epiphany which is January 6.

What is Epiphany anyway? It is the day after the 12th night of Christmas which is January 6.

Traditionally the twelve days of Christmas are a festive period linking together two great feasts of the lord; the Nativity and Epiphany. During this time period one celebration leads into another. The first day is the Nativity in which we celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the 12th day the adoration of the Shepherds' of Bethlehem and the arrival of the Magi.

The song the 12 days of Christmas reminds us of the food and merriment of the celebration. In some countries and cultures this continuous party still exists. In digging into the origins and meaning of "the 12 days of Christmas" some think the song began as "a memory and forfeits" game in which a leader recited a rhyme and the next person had to repeat the verse.

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree.

The leader then added another verse and so on until one of the players made a mistake.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree. etc.

I found out that there is limited documentation of the early origin of this song, there are a few versions in French and some scholars believe the song has French origins because of its reference to the partridge. (The partridge was not introduced to England until the late 1770's.)

In looking for some additional explanations of the song "The 12 days of Christmas," Snopes.com says it is also possible that "the 12 days of Christmas" may have been a transformation of another song called "A New Dial" which is also known as "In those Twelve Days" and it dates back to 1625 and assigned religious meanings to each of the twelve days of Christmas.

Here is the "New Dial or "In Those Twelve Days"

What are they that are but one?

We have one God alone, in heaven above, sits on his throne.

What are they which are but two?

Two testaments, the old and the new, we do acknowledge to be true.

What are they which are but three?

Three persons in the Trinity, which make one God in unity.

What are they which are but four?

Four sweet Evangelist there are, Christ's birth, life, death which do declare.

What are they which are but five?

Five senses, like five kings, maintain in every man a several reign.

What are they which are but six?

Six days to labor is not wrong, for God himself did work so long.

What are they which are but seven?

Seven liberal arts hath God sent down, with divine skill man's soul to crown.

What are they which are but eight?

Eight Beatitudes are there given, use them right and go to heaven.

What are they which are but nine?

Nine Muses, like the heaven's nine spheres, with sacred tunes entice our ears.

What are they which are but ten?

Ten statutes God to Moses gave, which, kept or broke, do spill or save.

What are they which are but eleven?

Eleven thousand virgins did partake, and suffered death for Jesus' sake.

What are they which are but twelve?

Twelve are attending on God's son, twelve make our creed. The Dial's done.

As we transition from the Christmastide to Epiphany I wish everyone blessings and a happy new year!

Martha

Music Corner



We would like to have regular bell choir rehearsals beginning in February. Rehearsals would take place on the first and third Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. The bell choir is always looking for new members, there is no need to read music, just come and have some fun with us! Please let me or the office know if you would like to join!

Also, if you or a child in your home would like to play an instrument for our church services as a prelude, postlude or during communion please let the office know. We would LOVE to have you share and grow your talent with us!

In music, Jeff

Upcoming Events

Family Night

Our next Family night will be Friday, January 14th). We invite all families with young children (ages 1 – 18) to come and have fun! We will cook a family meal

followed by a fun time of Christian Education.

Clergy Conference

Rev. Ellen will be attending the Clergy Conference on Wed. Feb 2 & 3.

Annual Parish Meeting

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUN. JAN. 23RD. (SNOW DATE SUN. JAN. 30TH). THERE WILL BE ONE COMBINED 9AM SERVICE WITH THE MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.

Diocesan Events & Notices

Safe Church Training

The next local session is scheduled for:

3/5/11: St. Paul's, 661 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT

3/4/11: St. Peter's, 59 Main Street, Cheshire

3/29/11: St. Paul's, 200 Riverside Ave. Riverside, CT

Lay Recertification Training

6:30pm – 9pm

Did You Know?

Pledge Cards

If you did not receive your pledge card and letter in the mail, please let the office know and another will be sent.

Men's Food, Fellowship and Study

All men are invited to the Men's Food, Fellowship and Study which is held once a month. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011. Breakfast will be served.

There is time for fellowship and breakfast from 7:30 to 8:00 am and study from 8:00 to 9:00 am. We will be starting a new study based on James W. Moore's book "Jesus' Parables about Priorities". The Bible study is open to all men of Trinity and friends. Please come and invite a friend. All are welcome.

Intergenerational Coffee Hour

Our next Intergenerational Coffee Hour will be held on Feb. 13th in celebration of Valentines Day. Additional information will be found in your weekly bulletin.

Bible Study Group

The 10am bible study group resumed meetings on Wed. Jan. 5th. We begin our study of The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren on Jan. 19th. Come and join us!

2011 Altar Flowers

2011 Altar Flower schedule is posted! Please sign up for the date you desire. Any questions? Please contact Louise Caterson.

Our Congratulations go to

Deacon Lee Forshaw and his wife Val on the birth of their first granddaughter, Mercer Elle Forshaw. She was born to their son David and his wife Stephanie on Dec 30th, and weighed in at 7lbs 20 inches long. Congratulations!

Our Condolences go to

Evelyn and David Schiffer on the loss of her beloved sister Olga B. Williams.

Kathy Thorp and all the Throp family on the loss of their cherished Aunt, Gertrude Pooley.

Kyle, Bill, Gail and all of their extended family at the loss of their beloved mother and cousin Irene Pistey Buckley.

Renate and all the Deer family on the loss of Ralph Deer and to all the Boy Scouts and their families who will miss this wonderful man who lead Scouts for 20 years.

Activities in Trumbull

There are many free activities from concerts to kids activities offered by the Trumbull Recreation Department. *Please see posted newsletter!*

St. John's Supper

Our next dates to volunteer are January 25th and February 22nd. For more information please contact the office.

Covenant to Care

Recently we asked our staff and office volunteers what they would put on a wish list. Some of the items on that list are below. Maybe you or someone you know can help.

Diapers for tiny babies; A new box truck of deliveries; Strong backed volunteer or PT staff to help with furniture pickup and deliveries; Volunteer Mentors; Computers for our mentees; New children's books; New or like new bath towels; Twin sheet sets for our kid's beds; Crib sheet sets; Donated cribs (no drop-sided); New "undies" for boys and girls, all kind, sizes; Winter months program volunteer for children's clothing closet (2 or 3 times a week); Send an extra financial donation to CCC using giveGreater.org; Men needed as mentors.

Help Starts Here

Call 211 for your connection to: Alzheimer's resources, child care services, and many more. 211 is a partnership of Connecticut United Way and the State of Connecticut. *Please see posted brochures!*

People in the Hospital

If you know of anyone who is in the hospital and would like a visit from clergy please call the office. *Thank You!*

Prayer Chain Ministry

Anyone with prayers of an emergency nature should call Jocelyn Russell at 445-1323 or Louise Caterson at 378-8770. All requests are kept in confidence.

Wish List

Our current wish list includes:

- Dehumidifier*
- Donations of any paper products are always welcome.

**Item may be new or used*

Thank You From...

Dear Trinity Church:

I just wanted to send a heartfelt message to you Rev Kennedy and the parish. The families were so Thankful for the generosity you all bestowed upon these children this holiday season. Thanks so much for your kindness.

Thanks Gregg Connolly, DCF. (our Covenant to Care Rep.)

Dear Rev. Kennedy:

Oh behalf of Birmingham Group Health Services, we wish to thank you, Ms. Miranti and Ms. Robison for their donations of children's quilts and fleece pillows to the Under the Tree Holiday Giving Program for the families receiving services from The Umbrella domestic violence program. Looking over the past month and seeing the outreach from the community has proven to be a wonderful outpouring of kindness, caring and generosity the women and children will never forget.

We realize that during the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season it is not easy to find the time to do all that we need to do, but we are very aware that you took the time to reach out to touch the lives of these families during the Holiday Season.

Once again, thank you for reaching out to make a difference in the lives of Birmingham Group Health Services' families. May you have a Peaceful & Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Susan DeLeon, LMFT
Director, The Umbrella

Arlene S. Greco
Director of Development

Calendar – March - April: Upcoming Events

Bishop Douglas Visits Trinity

Bishop Ian Douglas will be celebrating Holy Eucharist with Trinity on Sunday, March 20, 2011. He will be present at both 8am and 10am services. Please do your very best to attend one of these services!

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake supper on March 8. More details to be announced in your weekly bulletin.

Ash Wednesday

Services for Ash Wednesday will be held on Wed. March 9 at 12 noon and 7pm.

Wednesday's throughout Lent we will have a 12 noon service of Holy Eucharist with the Sacrament of healing in the Chapel.

Palm Sunday

Services for Palm Sunday will be held on Sun. April 17th

Maundy Thursday

Please join us on Thurs. April 21st for our Maundy Thursday dinner at 6:30pm with service following at 7pm.

Good Friday

We will have services for Good Friday at Trinity at 12 noon.

TIC Services for Good Friday will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on Main Street in Trumbull at 12 noon.

Easter

Please join us for a festive Easter Service on Sun. April 24

Meeting Schedule

January meeting schedule:

- Wardens: Tuesday, Jan. 4th at 7 pm
- Finance: Wed., Jan. 12th at 7 pm
- Vestry: Tuesday, Jan. 18th at 7 pm

February meeting schedule:

- Wardens: Tuesday, Feb. 1st at 7 pm
- Finance: Wed., Feb. 9th at 7 pm
- Vestry: Tuesday, Feb. 16th at 7 pm

Birthdays and Anniversaries



January Birthdays

Rev. Knute Hansen 1/10; Betty Neumann 1/14; Sara Battista 1/17; James Botten 1/23; Kathleen Kennedy 1/27; Cynthia Brixey 1/28; Amy Miranti 1/29; Kalman Nagy 1/29; Donald Smith 1/29.

February Birthdays

Beverly Getts 2/2; Alexis Detuzzi 2/3; Kiely MacKnight 2/3; Jennifer Bolton 2/6; Kayla Smith 2/13; Gertrude Pooley 2/14; Nancy Wilson 2/19; Lynsey McCloskey 2/21; Tim Smith Jr. 2/27.



January Anniversaries

Angela & Lou Payne 1/15.

February Anniversaries

Colin & Eileen Green 2/2; Brenda & Mike Stapleton 2/16; Carolyn & Bill DeFranco 2/17; Betty & Larry Neumann 2/19.

** Please call the Parish Office if someone's birthday or anniversary has been omitted. Thank you!*

We are always happy to welcome visitors. Please remember to invite your neighbors and friends to our services and programs!

Trinity Staff

Rev. Ellen Kennedy, Vicar ~ Sharon Buzzeo, Parish Administrator ~ Jeff Stokely, Organist
Brenda Stapleton, Church School Director/Youth Coordinator ~ Michael Stapleton, Sexton