



# TRINITY TIMES

## SEPTEMBER 2009

### Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
484 Lime Rock Rd.  
Lakeville, CT 06039  
Telephone: 860.435.2627  
Fax: 860.435.4794  
www.trinitylimerock.org  
trinity@trinitylimerock.org

Office Hours:  
By appointment

Linda Lloyd  
*Senior Warden*  
Roy Bickley  
*Junior Warden*

Geoffrey Brown  
*Clerk*  
John Lloyd  
*Treasurer*

Al Dorf, Bob Reid  
*Assistant Treasurers*

Christine Gevert  
*Organist/Choir Director*

Gretchen Hachmeister  
*Sunday School*

Lisa Brennan, *Bookkeeper*  
Jeff Silvernale, *Grounds*  
Junior Wright, *Sexton*  
Alexis Dorf, *Trinity Times*

#### FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Friends,  
While we don't like it, change is inevitable. Three summers ago we were also in a period of change. When Rob finally came to us in Advent of 2006 we were smaller and less cohesive. In less than three years we have increased our numbers and healed our collective spirits. We owe Rob Clements great thanks for his many gifts to Trinity. We are now in a place of strength from which to move on in our search for Trinity's next pastor.

I will also not minimize the amount of hard work and cooperation that will be necessary in the coming months. We will all have to pitch in and help. The Canon for Transition Ministry, the Rev. Eric Larsen, will be at Trinity on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> to celebrate and speak to us about the next steps in our search for a priest. Please plan to attend.

Presently we have clergy who will provide supply services for us on Sundays, beginning August 30<sup>th</sup> and through the months of September and October until we find interim clergy with the aid of the Diocese. From my preliminary conversation with Rev. Larsen, we will meet as a parish to "Tell Our Story", then set up a Search Committee to assist in finding our next priest. This is not a short process and may take months if not a year to settle.

I ask all of you to volunteer to help in any way you can during this transitional period. I also ask you to continue to pray and support the Vestry as we continue in the day to day work of running the parish. From the first day I stepped into Trinity I realized that the people in this church shared a strong bond, one that surpassed (and often survived) the assorted clergy who serve us. We grow attached to our priests, but it is our Trinity family who remains and is unchanging.

Peace, Linda

## WELCOME, HEIDI!

We are happy to welcome The Rev. Heidi Truax as our supply priest for September and October. Heidi is a Sharon resident and most recently served as an associate priest at Trinity Church Southport. She has a particular interest in mission work, and has spent significant time in Honduras.

## LABOR DAY BBQ

Our final barbeque supper of the 2009 season will be on Saturday, Sept. 5 at 6 pm. Al Dorf will be grilling the steaks and parishioners are invited to bring the side dishes for the rest of our picnic dinner. Friends and neighbors are invited as well. Please call Al at 860-364-0816 or email alexisdorf@sbcglobal.net to say you are coming.

## THANKS, GEOFF!

We are grateful once again to Geoff Brown for his ministry in providing a summer sports program for our youngsters. July was t-ball month and August was devoted to volleyball. Thanks also to Chelsea Ziegler for her willingness to coach our young people on the finer points of volleyball!

As has become a tradition, the end of the summer sports program was celebrated on August 23 with a "Sundae Sunday" coffee hour offering three kinds of ice cream and lots of whipped cream and toppings!

## 26th ANNUAL ART SHOW



Trinity's annual Art Show marks its 26th season this year! We opened with an artists' reception on Aug. 28 and the show continues through Labor Day. Hours are from 12-4 pm.

The Art Show is Trinity's biggest fundraiser, as the parish receives 35% of each sale. Please visit the show, and perhaps find the perfect gift for a special person's special occasion!

## CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES



The first week of Sunday School will be September 13.

Church school chairperson Gretchen Hachmeister reports that she, Cheryl Duntz and Marian Browning are busy planning this year's education program for our young people. Parishioners interested in assisting or being available to substitute teach are asked to contact Gretchen at 860.364.0592.

## TRINITY WALL STREET CHOIR RETURNS SEPTEMBER 20

Each fall the Trinity Wall St choir makes a retreat at the Trinity Conference Center in Cornwall, and each fall Trinity Lime Rock is privileged to welcome the choir on the Sunday of that weekend.

This year the visit will be Sept. 20. We look forward to the choir's offering of the anthem and to meeting members of the group during coffee hour.



## SEARCH COMMITTEE PROCESS



We will begin the search committee process on Sept. 27 with a visit from the Rev. Erik Larsen, the canon for transition ministry for the Diocese of CT. (For old timers, this used to be called the deployment office....). Erik will preach and celebrate that Sunday as well as meet with us to outline the process we will follow.

For those with a burning interest in knowing exactly what we will do and exactly who will do it and when, please visit the diocesan website [www.ctdiocese.org](http://www.ctdiocese.org) and click on transition ministry.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



When I was a kid, it seems that upon returning to school in September, the first essay I always had to write was “What I did on my summer vacation”. Since my parents were great believers in the efficacy of travel as educational, those essays tended to focus on hiking in the outback of the western US or the contents of the great houses, cathedrals and museums of Europe – along with the usual hiking in the Alps. My father was a great believer in hauling his protesting offspring up and down various mountains as a means of building strength, endurance, and character.

This summer, in addition to the usual time spent with children, grandchildren, siblings and my mother in Vermont, I had two interesting experiences. The first was leading the Sunday worship service at Pine Grove in Falls Village. Since the lectionary for that Sunday was the chewing out of David by Nathan on the subject of David and Bathsheba, sharing thoughts with the congregation on our own occasional tendencies to think ourselves entitled to whatever we want was a natural segue.

The second experience was in facilitating a five week study group I called “How is She my Sister?” at St. John’s Church in Salisbury. We first spoke of two different ways of reading Scripture, the literal “every misplaced comma is divinely sanctioned and is supposed to be there” and the approach based on Biblical criticism, word, language and culture study.

We then tackled the importance of understanding context. Imagine hearing or reading Acts 10: 9-16 with absolutely no background as to what it is about. Surprisingly, it is not a dietary advisory issued to Peter by a divine voice, but rather a statement relating to the question of whether a group known as the God fearers needed to become Jewish through observation of dietary laws and circumcision before they could embrace Christianity. As one member of the group commented, “I never would have figured that out!”

Indeed, context is everything.

We next investigated the lives of Rebecca and her daughter-in-law (who was also her niece) Rachel. And of course if you are talking about Rachel, you have to talk about her sister Leah and the great baby-making contest. Then there was Deborah, the strong woman who was **not** defined by being someone’s wife or mother, and Hannah, who was very clear with God about what she needed and what kind of deal she was offering if God would cooperate.

In the New Testament, we “interviewed” Martha, a take-charge type who seems to have been instrumental in running the infrastructure that made Jesus’ ministry possible, as well as three unnamed women with whom Jesus modeled the way in which we are, according to both Old and New Testaments, to offer hospitality to the stranger.

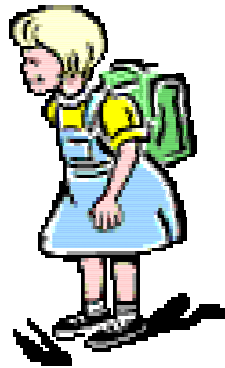
With each “sister” we found a commonality in our lives and theirs, in one form or another. Doing the research, the reading, the reflecting and the writing for each meeting, I began to feel as if I were living in the Old Testament and later in the Gospels. So often we see Scripture as “that was then, this is now” and as not *really* connected to us. Yet, if we spend time entering the lives of those folks, we find that the thousands of years separating us chronologically are of little account, and that if we sat down to converse with Martha or Deborah or Hannah, we would find much to talk about.

The next time you sit down with a scriptural passage, take a few minutes to “talk” to the people you find there. I guarantee it will be an enlightening experience!

Alexis Dorf

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE  
BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK AND LUNCH BAG  
PROJECT!

WE WERE ABLE TO DONATE OVER 25 UNITS TO  
AREA YOUNGSTERS!



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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
484 LIME ROCK RD.  
LAKEVILLE, CT 06039  
address correction requested