



# TRINITY TIMES

## DECEMBER 2011

### TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Office Hours:  
Wed. – Sat.  
9 am – noon

The Reverend Heidi Truax

Alexis Dorf  
*Senior Warden*  
Jim Conzo  
*Junior Warden*

Geoffrey Brown  
*Clerk*  
John Lloyd  
*Treasurer*

Al Dorf, Bill Kellett, Martha Nesbitt  
*Assistant Treasurers*

Christine Gevert  
*Organist/Choir Director*

Terri Brennan  
*Sunday School*

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

#### FROM THE VICAR'S DESK:



Advent is here! Christmas is coming (in 20 days as of Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>)! We all get geared up at this time of year for the presents to buy, the baked goods to make, the cards to send. Then, on top of all we have to do at home, we have church traditions to which we adhere, like the

Bazaar, Advent Quiet Day, the Tree Lighting, the Pageant, the greening of the church, not to mention rehearsals for the Pageant and Christmas services.

**But, no, this is not an admonition about doing too much in the Advent season.** We cannot do anything about the fact that we must prepare for all the important events of our lives. Even if I hide all the presents and poinsettia plants in the closet during Advent, they need to be at the ready to bring out on Christmas.

What I would like to suggest is that we invite Christ to do all these things with us. What this can do for us is to make us mindful of why we are doing all this preparation; for our church, for ourselves, and most importantly, for the glory of God's mission in the world.

As I write this, Ginny Dildine, Alice Tweed, Jane and Jimmy Lipton, Diane Walters, Terri Brennan, Danielle Gaherty, Linda Lloyd and Jeff Silvernale are all buzzing around Walker Hall getting ready for the bazaar on Saturday. I hear laughter and people sharing stories of bazaars past, and the story behind items for sale this year. What a difference it makes to approach this HUGE task

with joy and a sense of community, as opposed to seeing it as another onerous chore to be faced during the busiest season of the year. The Spirit of Christ is in this place!

May the peace of Christ be with you, and hope to see you all at the Advent Quiet Morning and the Tree Lighting!

Faithfully,  
*Pastor Heidi*

## ADVENT ADVENTURES



**Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10-2** marks our annual Christmas bazaar, with something for everyone! Start with cider and fresh baked donuts courtesy of Master Chef John Lloyd, and then enjoy browsing our vendors.



Sunday School students are offering hand decorated birdhouses as well as “do it yourself” models, along with Christmas gift tags.

The outreach committee is featuring wonderful items from Lou and Katrina Piezzo’s recent trip to Nigeria, along with “Ten Top Reasons to be an Episcopalian” mugs and Cuyler Black’s always popular “Inherit the Mirth” calendars. We’ll have some of his “What’s that Funny Look on your Faith” books as well.



Crafts and art by John Dildine, Dave Heacox Jane Tuttle and Mary Anne Carley will be offered as well as books by local authors Richard Carley and John Kuhns. As always, we’ll have wreaths for sale.



Special this year is silver jewelry from famed Texas maker James Avery. Is there someone special in your life who would love a unique gift?



Delectable goodies will be at the bake sale, and lunch will be offered to hungry shoppers as well.



Advent is supposed to be a time of quiet and reflection....right.....**Saturday, Dec. 10** Sister Mary Fahy, RSM, will again lead a quiet morning at Trinity as we contemplate “**Making Advent Soup**” under her guidance. We’ll meet from **9 ‘til noon** for an opportunity to step aside from the bustle of Christmas preparations in order to read, reflect, pray and feed our souls. At noon will we have—what else? - soup for lunch and a time for visiting. No charge but donations are welcome! *Please let Pastor Heidi know if you’ll be joining us.*



**The first tree lighting ceremony in Lime Rock** since who knows when will follow at **5 pm on Dec. 10**. Caroling will be led by our Trinity choir, which will be joined by musicians from Housatonic Valley High School. Please come and bring friends and neighbors as we sing together and sip hot chocolate! In case of inclement weather, we’ll still light the tree but will do our caroling inside.



Another opportunity for quiet and reflection will be offered at our mid-day, mid-week, mid-month **Holy Eucharist at noon on Dec. 14**. If you are a regular worship assistant on Sundays, this is your chance simply to *be*, instead of *do*!

**TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY**



The **69th (!) Annual Christmas Pageant** will be held on Dec. 18 at 10:30. Our children—and a few adults too! - will offer yet another unique look at the Christmas story. One rehearsal only, on Dec. 17 (time TBD).

If a young person in your family would like to participate, please contact Pastor Heidi or Sunday School director Terri Brennan and let them know you'll do your part!



**Dec. 18**, the last Sunday of Advent, will also be our annual **Greening of the Church**. Please plan to stay after coffee that morning to help install the pew candlesticks, tie the Christmas bows, decorate the windows and set up our Christmas crèche, as we prepare to welcome the Christ child.

Donations to the flower committee to cover the cost of all the greens and pointsettias are welcome! If your gift is a memorial for a loved one, please note that name on the sign up sheet in Walker Hall. Check may be made out to Trinity with "flower memorial" on the memo line.

## CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY!

***Unto us a boy was born;  
Welcome little stranger!  
In a barn he found a home  
His cradle was a manger.***

Old English carol

**On Dec. 24 at 3 PM** Pastor Heidi will celebrate Holy Eucharist with a homily especially for children and their adults.

Concerned about your wiggly grandchildren or toddler? Don't be! This is a time especially for them, and wigglers and gigglers are welcome!

**A Polish Christmas** is the theme of the choral Christmas prelude at **7 PM** on Christmas Eve. Henryk Milek's *Missa Pastoralis Honorem Nativita Domino* will be the centerpiece of the prelude, and the Trinity choir and Vocal Ensemble will sing traditional Polish carols as well.



At **7:30 PM** we will celebrate a festive Christmas Eucharist.

On **Christmas Day** music at the **10:30** Holy Eucharist will include "Quiet Joy", contemplative arias, duets and carols sung by mezzo Janet Walker and alto Pat Barton.

Special thanks to Pastor Heidi and music director Christine Gevert for all their work in planning our Advent and Christmas season activities! While the rest of us are enjoying the crisp days of fall and raking leaves, they are hard at work preparing for the upcoming liturgical season!

## THANKS, TRINITY!



At our annual Feed a Family of Four for a Day ingathering, we collected over 30 bags of food for the OWLs Kitchen. The cupboards there were about bare, so the arrival of the Trinity station wagon was welcome!

Thanks to all those who participated in this "walking the walk" outreach project, and don't forget to keep filling the food basket by the baptismal font! People need to eat all year round, not just at Thanksgiving!

**TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY**

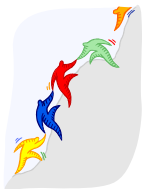
Thanks from the guests at the soup kitchen sponsored by the cathedral in Hartford as well. Small personal toiletry articles placed in the bowl by the Walker Hall door are taken regularly to Diocesan House for donation to the soup kitchen. For folks who have next to nothing or nothing at all, these small gifts are a welcome reminder that they are not forgotten.

**“God’s work, our hands”**

### **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

As of the beginning of December, we have received \$96,469 in pledges towards our goal of \$160,000. Stewardship chair John Oler reminds us that it takes time, talent, treasure and teamwork to make Trinity not only a worshipping congregation but a community resource as well.

Many, many of us give regularly of our time and talent –we arrange flowers, teach our children, polish brass, sing, raise money for brothers and sisters in need. We work as teams in hospitality, outreach, music ministry, adult education and caring for the altar.



Like the smart geese that John mentioned on the first Sunday of Advent, we take turns leading, we use others’ energy—and offer our own! - to make our flight as smooth as possible. And we certainly do honk, so to speak, as we worship together, to make sure that we remain a group with no one left behind!

Now it is time to finance these ministries. Our communal household expenses such as salaries, light, phone, and heat are not

a lot different than those we pay in our own homes. We have capital/repair expenses at Trinity, just as at home, and we want to share our good news and our community with others, in the same way that we make charitable or philanthropic donations from our homes.



If you have not completed your pledge card, please do so and send or bring it to Trinity in the next two weeks. Remembering that we are about to celebrate Jesus’ birthday, we can offer him a gift when we support the church of which he is the head.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**



The annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 29. If you are a committee head, now is a good time to start thinking about your report, which will be due by email to the office by Jan. 16. We need time to collate reports into a readable format and to post the Annual Report on the website.

### **THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR**



In these early days of Advent, I have been thinking about how the season is a metaphor for our whole lives. The juxtaposition of darkness and light is a major theme of Advent, and I think this holds true of our lives as well.

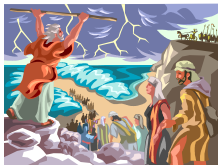
We grow in the darkness of our mothers’ wombs and if we are fortunate, after nine months or so we emerge into the eager hands and the light and love of parents and families. Our lives proceed through times of darkness and light until our mor-

**TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY**

tal light is extinguished and we emerge into the brightness of God's eternal presence.



Scripture relates story after story of waiting in the dark and then emerging into light. Abraham waited patiently in the dark for God to fulfill the promise of progeny who would be more numerous than the stars of the sky. When the postmenopausal Sarah gave birth to Isaac, the light shone.



The Israelites waited in the darkness of slavery in Egypt until the dramatic Exodus and the fiery pillar of light illuminated the way to the Promised Land.

The Babylonian exiles waited in mourning and darkness for liberation by Cyrus and a return to Jerusalem.



First century Israelites, their land occupied by imperial Rome, waited for a Messiah to set them free. When that light came, it was as a star in the East and the birth cry of a baby boy born in a stable.

We each have our own stories of dark and light. Mine is of periodic episodes of clinical depression that leave me hopeless in the dark, sustained by family, friends and the vague awareness of a loving God who waits patiently with me. When the light comes, it is as vague and ephemeral as the first pink streaks of dawn in the eastern sky.



For others, waiting in the dark may mean waiting for the results of medical tests, a job application, a phone call or text message saying that a loved one is safe or that a baby has been born healthy and whole.

The light sometimes comes suddenly and other times gradually, but it always comes. None of us likes these times of darkness, but without times of darkness, there is no time of light, in the same way that without sadness, there is no joy.

So in this time of Advent reflection, let us give thanks for those times of darkness, as well as for the coming of the Light.

Alexis Dorf



**In the bleak midwinter,  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on  
snow  
Snow on snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter,  
Long ago.  
What can I give him, poor  
as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him-  
Give my heart.**

Christina Rosetti

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## The Work of Christmas

**When the song of the angels is stilled,**

**When the star  
in the sky is  
gone,**

**When the  
Kings and  
Princes are  
home,**



**When the shepherds are back with  
their flocks,**

**The work of Christmas begins.**

**To find the lost,**

**To heal the broken,**

**To feed the hungry,**

**To release the prisoner,**

**To teach the nations,**

**To bring Christ to all,**

**To make music in the heart.**

*Poem by Howard Thurman  
Graphics by Heather Peck*