



# TRINITY TIMES

## FEBRUARY 2012

### TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Trinity Episcopal Church  
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Lakeville, CT 06039  
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trinity@trinitylimerock.org

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

The Reverend Heidi Truax

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

Randy Orzano  
*Clerk*  
Bill Kellett  
*Treasurer*

Al Dorf, John Lloyd, Martha Nesbitt  
*Assistant Treasurers*

Christine Gevert  
*Organist/Choir Director*

Terri Brennan  
*Sunday School*

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

#### FROM THE VICAR'S DESK:



We survived the marathon Annual Meeting! If you missed it, you missed hearing all the enthusiasm for Trinity, and you missed some great food as well. The meeting was a bit long, though, and I am going to work with the vestry on trying to find ways to make the meeting a bit more streamlined next year. Because of the length of the meeting, I did not get a chance to say something that I very much wanted to say. Maybe God intended it that way! But I'm going to take this time to say it now.

We have so much to be thankful for as a parish, not the least of which is dedicated parishioners and vestry. As Christ's disciples, every one of us has heard the call and responded in whatever way we are able.

Some parishioners work in very visible ways, and we remember to thank them. But some parishioners have done their work for the Kingdom of God quietly, without anyone noticing. I want to thank all of you whose work goes unnoticed by humans (but never unnoticed by God)!

There is a parishioner who gave us 22 pounds of coffee which helps us so much to keep expenses down for our Sunday morning coffee hours. There is the parishioner who made a bracket for the doors to the narthex to make sure they stay closed on cold days so that we do not waste heat. There is a parishioner who has donated new fans and lights for Walker Hall. These will be installed soon, and will be a huge help to the lighting and the air flow in the Hall. There are parishioners who

have been quietly cleaning our church, bathrooms and halls.

And there are those who have quietly donated to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund without which I would not be able to help people who have fallen on financial hard times.

By their very nature, there are so many unseen, but significant gifts made to this parish that even I am not aware of them all. You know who you are, and I thank you, one and all. On behalf of the wardens and vestry, Trinity Church thanks each one of the unknown givers and volunteers. Our parish is strong, healthy, efficient and clean because of you.

As we come to the end of the Epiphany season, and look towards Lent, the light of Christ that shines through this parish is blazingly bright. We are indeed blessed. May we also continue to be a blessing to others in all that we undertake.

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Heidi Truax*

### ANNUAL MEETING



At the Annual Meeting on Jan. 29, the following were elected:

Alexis Dorf : Senior Warden  
Jim Conzo: Junior Warden  
Clerk: Randy Orzano  
Treasurer: Bill Kellett

Vestry—1 year: Jeremy Dakin  
2 years: Jennie Norberg  
3 years: Mary Anne Carley  
Danielle Gaherty

Both Jeremy and Jennie are filling vacated but unexpired positions.

Geoff Brown was elected as Delegate to the Deanery and Diocesan Convention Delegate.

Thanks to John Lloyd, Geoff Brown, Pat Barton and Lynn Gaffney, all leaving vestry positions. Your commitment to Trinity's well being is reflected in your many hours of work on behalf of this parish and is greatly appreciated.

In the absence of both the in-coming and out-going treasurers, assistant treasurer Al Dorf presented the budget and answered questions.

Senior Warden Alexis Dorf urged parishioners to think of our budget expenses as investments in Trinity's ministries and pointed out that if we wish to move Pastor Heidi to the position of rector, we must demonstrate to the Bishops that we are financially ready and capable of doing so.

Stewardship chair John Oler thanked parishioners for committing to a total of over \$145,000 so far and said that we have only a little farther to go in order to fund a budget that would allow us to give Pastor Heidi a raise and to do the long deferred buildings and grounds projects that are needed.

### ANNUAL GIVING



Financial stewardship is alive and well at Trinity Church! Fifty three pledging units have committed to over \$145,000 for 2012, a significant increase over previous years. Of those, nine have made second, supplementary pledges to their original pledges.

*TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY*

However, we still have a ways to go! Our goal is \$160,000. This amount would enable us to offer Pastor Heidi the first raise she has had since joining us over two years ago. It would also provide for painting the church and planning for the replacement of the boiler in the Rectory.

Almost all of us can dig a little deeper into our pockets to increase our investment in Trinity's ministries. If each of the 53 pledgers increased his or her pledging by one dollar **each week**, we'd add \$2,756.00 to our pledging total. And for sure each of us wastes at least one dollar each week on something or other!

If each of the 53 pledgers increased his or her giving by one dollar **each day**, we'd add another \$19,292 to our annual giving total! And it is likely that a good number of us waste a dollar a day on something or other that we don't particularly need.

Please think about adding to your 2012 pledge and let Pastor Heidi or treasurer Bill Kellett know your decision. Together we can fund the ministries we want to both continue and undertake in 2012.

### BIBLE STUDY



The current session of Bible Study is being held on Sundays from 8:50—9:45

AM. The Gospel of Mark, which is the primary source of Gospel readings during this Lectionary Year, is under discussion, along with "The Essential Episcopalian".

Stay late after the early service or come early for the late service, but please join us for this continuing consideration of our faith and its traditions.

### CLEANING UP



One of the constraints that this year's budget has necessitated is the termination of the position of sexton at Trinity—hence, we are all now sextons!

Ginny Dildine has worked hard at establishing a cleaning roster for Trinity. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Guild Room, where each of us can sign up to undertake a month's worth of our chosen tasks.

Having a bright and shiny church, parish hall and other rooms sends a message to visitors that we care about our parish and are willing to invest our time as well as our financial assets in its mission and ministry.

### CHOCOLATE SUNDAY!



Sunday, Feb. 19 is the last Sunday before Lent begins, and we will mark it as we have done in recent years with our (in) famous Chocolate Sunday.

All parishioners are asked to bring their chocolate specialité de la maison to put on the hospitality table. Give the ECW representative \$5.00, she'll give you a plate, and you'll be in business!

Proceeds from Chocolate Sunday go to fund the ECW ministries at Trinity, which include stocking the kitchen with the staples we use each week.

TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY

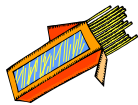
## MIDWEEK EUCHARIST



Pastor Heidi continues to offer mid-week Eucharist at noon on the Wednesday closest to the middle of the month.

This month it will be on Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday. Recently we have celebrated in her office, in order to conserve fuel by not heating the church. Please consider joining us for a quiet, intimate Eucharist during which you don't have to be responsible for anything at all! Pastor Heidi even asks us if we have any thoughts in response to the readings or homily, so this is your chance to speak up if you are so inclined. (And some of us are *always* inclined...)

## A HOOT FROM THE OWLS (KITCHEN)



A great Hasidic rabbi once said "someone else's physical needs are my spiritual duties".

The OWLs Kitchen has advised us of their urgent need for winter type foods—they are in need of all kinds of canned pastas, especially canned ravioli and canned spaghetti and meatballs.



They also find that coffee, tea and chocolate—all those tummy warming drinks! -are flying off their shelves.

Let's help the OWLs restock, let's feed our hungry brothers and sisters in the NW Corner. In addition to fulfilling those spiritual duties, we will find spiritual joy as well.

## I AM THANKFUL FOR.....

We are always quick to pray for what we need for and for the needs of others. But how often do we offer thanks for prayers answered and for the joys in our lives?

During the liturgy on Jan. 22, Pastor Heidi inserted time for parishioners to make thank offerings for all the blessings of our lives and to share with the congregation the reasons for our gratitude.

We will have such opportunities each month on Youth Sunday, so if there is something for which you are particularly grateful, that will be an appropriate time to "offer praise in the congregation" as the psalmist says. All proceeds from the thank offerings will benefit the ministries of our outreach committee.

## SHROVE TUESDAY FUN!



On Tuesday, Feb. 21, we will follow our traditional pancake supper with a game night! What will we be playing? Come and see — and perhaps bring a board or card game that you particularly enjoy!

## ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVANCE



We will offer the Ash Wednesday liturgy twice on Wednesday, Feb 22. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated and the imposition of ashes offered at noon and 6 PM.

These services are a thoughtful and solemn way to begin our Lenten journeys. Please join us.

TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY

## BLOGGING IN LENT

During each day of this Lenten season Pastor Heidi will be offering a meditation on a scriptural passage on her blog. We are encouraged to read the daily blog, and if so moved, to respond to it. The web address is [www.heiditruax.com](http://www.heiditruax.com).

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



My calendar notes that Ash Wednesday is closing in on us.

I find Lent the most problematic season in the canonical year. The idea of substitutionary atonement – that someone or something had to die in order for forgiveness to happen – is a remnant of the Temple system thousands of years ago. In fact, God says in the Hebrew Scriptures that sacrifice and burnt offerings are sources of disgust; what God wants is a contrite heart—and for God’s people to treat one another with love and compassion.

Given that clear statement, why the practice of Temple sacrifice persisted is beyond my understanding. Unless, of course, there was money to be made—very often a reason for a no longer useful practice to persist!

Traditionally, we are asked to “sacrifice” during Lent, identifying with Jesus’ sacrifice of his life for us. This usually means that we give up chocolate or some other favorite vice for the duration, which in my personal experience, does not make me a better person – just a grumpier one!

More recently, the idea has been to undertake something additional to our usual commitments – certainly a more useful

and creative approach. Last year I took on co-facilitating Trinity’s “Walking the Walk” Lenten program of lunches, suppers and movies. That required preparation for the discussion as well as cooking. Additionally, I took on a five week afternoon discussion group at Noble Horizons, which also required lecture preparation and handouts.

By the time I dragged myself into the Easter Vigil, I was too darned exhausted to be thankful for anything or anyone!

I think I missed the point.

This year I am trying something different. I am going to do **less**. At least, that is the plan. The root words from which “Lent” is derived include one meaning “spring” and one meaning “long” – as in longer days. There is also the Latin “lentus” meaning “slow”, and that is the one I am going to focus on. I am going to try to slow down (a little) to give myself more time for reading, reflecting and just being. When I am in my usual overdrive mode, there is little time to just be present to Presence, so I am going to try slowing down this Lent and see what happens.

I’ll let you know after Easter what the experience was like.

-Alexis Dorf



*TRINITY CHURCH OFFERS COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE WAY*

All of Scripture is about change— chaos to order, bondage to liberation, abandonment to hope or return.

All the miracle stories are about change—water to wine, stone to bread, sick to healed, sinning to forgiven.

If this is the “reign of God,/Kingdom of heaven”, am I the kind of person God can use to implement this change?

John Bennison  
*The Center for Progressive Christianity*

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