



# VOICE OF TRINITY

November 23, 2021

Volume 21, No. 06

*“In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.” Luke 1:39-40*

FROM THE



RECTOR

The story of Mary's visit with Elizabeth is one we often engage toward the end of Advent when we're just about to cross over into the celebration of Jesus' birth. This visit begins just after Gabriel announced to Mary that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, she would give birth to the Son of God. Gabriel ends his visit by telling Mary that nothing is impossible with God, and telling her about the pregnancy of Elizabeth, her previously barren relative. Our focus is often drawn to the Song of Mary where she proclaims: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." This Advent, though, I invite us to focus on the circumstances that allowed for the marvelous exchange between the two women – Mary set out and went.

In response to incredible and likely terrifying news, Mary set out and went. When she was in need of support and community, Mary set out and went. In the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when there was incredible life even in the midst of daily terrifying news, we restrained ourselves from going pretty much anywhere. As we enter this Advent season, where are you turning for support and community connection in a world still filled with incredible as well as terrifying circumstances and events?

Since Spring of 2020 we have been forced to re-imagine ways of being church, connecting with each other, being supportive community for each other, and empowering each other to proclaim the greatness of the Lord. Technology has allowed folks far and near to be a part of our community and has allowed those who previously had challenges getting to the building to have an avenue to stay connected. While we will continue to engage, explore, and develop ways that technology can support our ministry together, we are now very grateful to be able to re-engage with each other in person. Things are not the same as pre-COVID, and will probably never be exactly the same. What hasn't changed is that there is the opportunity for connection and community by gathering in person for worship and fellowship. Modified Community Fellowship Time (Coffee Hour) will resume during Advent after the 10 a.m. service. With vaccines now available for those ages 6+, plans are being made to resume Church School and other in-person formation for children and youth. We are remaining careful while seeking to live fully into our new normal. While there are many understandable reasons for folks to continue to worship primarily online, I wonder if for some of us it's simply become the default new normal. As we enter the season of Advent, I encourage you, when it is possible for you, to set out with due haste back into the physical presence of the community gathering at Trinity Church. Who knows what miraculous exchanges wait each of us?

*D. Littlepage +*

## **Adult Christian Formation – Coming Events**

The Adult Christian Formation team plans forums and programs on a wide variety of topics, understanding that we have a widely varied and diverse parish membership. We are currently planning for the seasons of Epiphany (January and February) and Lent (March). In the fall we surveyed parishioners about what programming would interest them, and we are planning our programs with those results in mind. Please talk to any member of the team, listed below, if you have ideas for future programs.

**Saturday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:**

**QUIET DAY: ADVENT HOPE FOR HEALING** – Rev. D. and members of the ACF team will lead a reflection on how the season of Advent offers us hope for healing. We will explore healing for ourselves, our community, and the world. See more details to the right.

**Sunday, December 5: A PEBBLE, A SANDWICH, AND A FEATHER, Three Stories about Musical Connection Across Time and Space** – Director of Music Ministries Michelle Horsley will present a program on three organ pieces that are particularly meaningful to her.

**Sunday, December 19: The Greening of the Church** – We will resume our practice of preparing the sanctuary for the celebration of the Nativity. This is a big job! Plan to stay after the service if you can.

**Sunday, January 9: Christian Ethical Principles for Confronting Social Injustice** – The Rev. Dr. Frank Kirkpatrick will lead us as we learn about the basic ethical principles and faith convictions that ought to inform a Christian response to the injustices in our society today.

**Sunday, January 23: Follow-up on Ethical Decision-making for Christians** – Watch the weekly eVoice for details.

Sunday forums will follow the 10:00 a.m. service, and masks will be required for those attending in person. Our technical support team, Casey Rousseau and Jacob Troiano, is working on making hybrid presentations via Zoom possible. In the meantime, sessions will be live-streamed on YouTube. Watch the weekly eVoice for reminders and updates to the schedule.

*- The ACF Team: Suzanne Blancaflor, Pat Bunker, Martha Freimuth, Frank Kirkpatrick, Mark MacGougan, Roy McAlpine, Everett Post, Rev. D. Littlepage*



### **Welcoming the Newly Baptized . . .**

During the 10:00 a.m. service on All Saints' Sunday, November 7, we were pleased to welcome Sebastian James Thraen into the household of God. Sebastian is the son of Thomas Thraen and Jennifer Sribanpot, and the grandson of Yolanda and Al Sribanpot.

## **Choir School To Sing for St. Lucia Festival**

On Friday, December 3, beginning at 7:00 p.m., Hartford's Emanuel Lutheran Church will host its 108<sup>th</sup> annual St. Lucia Festival, a traditional Swedish holiday event. The festival honors Lucia, a 4<sup>th</sup> century Christian martyr who, after her death, appeared in Sweden at a time of great famine and distributed food to the poor.

The St. Lucia Festival at Emanuel will include much music and costumed dancing, all offered by children and youth, including many of our Choir School choristers. Tickets will be available at the door for \$7.00 (\$5.00 for children). Audience members must wear masks.

Emanuel Lutheran is located at 311 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. Parking is available in the state lot on Capitol Avenue, right across from the State Capitol, about 100 yards from Emanuel. The church is handicapped accessible and all are welcome!

### **Advent Quiet Day To Offer Hope for Healing**

Plan to join other members of the Trinity community for an Advent Quiet Day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on December 4. Come lament the broken places in need of healing in our lives and in our world, and celebrate our journeys to healing and hope. There will be opportunities for small group sharing, individual reflection and centering. Lunch will be provided only for those who sign up at [trinityhartford.org/quietday](http://trinityhartford.org/quietday).



## *Music and Worship for Advent and Christmastide*

***Friday, December 3***

7:00 p.m. St. Lucia Festival at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hartford

***Sunday, December 5***

9:00 p.m. Advent Compline

***Friday, December 17***

7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas: A Service of Hope and Remembrance

***Saturday, December 18***

7:00 p.m. A Service of Lessons & Carols with the Trinity Choir and  
The Choir School of Hartford

***Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve***

4:45 p.m. Musical prelude

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Godly Play Christmas Story  
for children of all ages and their families, with hymns and carols

9:30 p.m. Musical prelude of instrumental and vocal music

10:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist of Christmas with the Trinity Choir and  
The Choir School of Hartford

***Sunday, December 26 – The First Sunday after Christmas***

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer with Congregational Lessons and Carols  
(*One service only this day*)

***Thursday, December 30***

12 noon Noonday Prayers via Zoom

***Sunday, January 2 – The Second Sunday after Christmas***

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with sermon

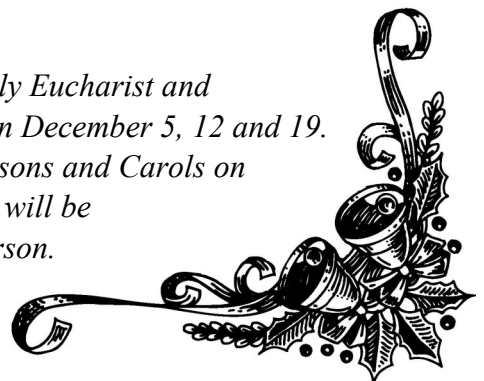
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with sermon and hymns

9:00 p.m. Christmas Compline

***Thursday, January 6 – The Feast of the Epiphany***

12 noon Holy Eucharist

*There will be no service on December 25. The 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir will be held as usual on December 5, 12 and 19.  
The Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. service and the service of Lessons and Carols on  
December 18, in addition to the Sunday 10:00 a.m. services, will be  
livestreamed via YouTube for those who cannot attend in person.*



## Cycle of Prayer for December and January

### December 5

Michelle Abrahams  
Marsha McCurdy Adell &  
Zoe and Morgan Adell  
Georges, Marthe & Joseph  
Annan-Kingsley

### December 12

Phyllis Appadu  
Amy Arlin &  
Meg and Robin Foster  
Evelyn Babins

### December 19

David Barrett  
Carmen Belgrave & Laquisha and  
Anthony Springer  
Basil & Joy Bennett

### December 26

Mavis Bennett  
Barbara Blackford  
Eleanor Blake

### January 2

Suzanne Blancaflor &  
Boo Morton  
Dorcas & Julius Blanchard  
Claire & Chivelle Blissett

### January 12

Fred, Emily, Advetus, Leroy,  
Frederick, Fredlane &  
Levi Bohlen  
Dianne Bowens-Waller  
Jim Bradley

### January 19

Cynthia & Isaiah Brown  
Pat Bunker  
Beverly, Vincent & Elon  
Bygrave

### January 26

Jerrold Cammock  
Trudi and Steve Campbell  
David and Sara Carson

## Compline Series Continues Through March

Our current five-month Sunday evening Compline series, taking place at 9:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month, launched on November 7. The series will continue through March 6, with Compline for Advent on December 5 and a Christmastide Compline service on January 2.

“Compline” originates from the Latin word *completorium*, meaning “completion.” Traditionally, it is the last service in a series of “canonical hours” – prayer services held at fixed times throughout the day/night. This daily round of services has been observed in many monastic traditions for well over a thousand years, with the first known mention of Compline in the West dating back to the writings of St. Benedict in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. This final liturgical hour of the day is a short service of late-night music and prayers, and serves as a spiritual reflection before bedtime.

Compline services at Trinity comprise 30 minutes of prayer and mystical choral music, sung by a professional ensemble, and lit by candlelight. We invite you into this sacred, darkened space of meditation and music.

### Voice Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Voice* is Friday, January 14, at 5:00 p.m. This issue will cover events taking place in **February and March**. Send your article to [voice@trinityhartford.org](mailto:voice@trinityhartford.org). Thanks!

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[www.trinityhartford.org](http://www.trinityhartford.org)

Phone: 860-527-8133 Fax: 860-527-2863

Email: [office@trinityhartford.org](mailto:office@trinityhartford.org)

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

1st Thursday: Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at noon  
All other Thursdays: Mid-day prayers at noon (via Zoom)  
Sundays at 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in person in the church  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (in person and via YouTube)  
[Links to YouTube services at trinityhartford.org](http://www.trinityhartford.org)

The Reverend Dorothea M. Littlepage, Rector  
Michelle Horsley, Director of Music Ministries

### Assisting Clergy:

The Reverend Dr. Frank G. Kirkpatrick  
The Right Reverend Andrew D. Smith  
The Reverend C. Jon Widing

The Reverend William J. Eakins, Rector Emeritus

The VOICE of Trinity Church  
Published in August, then bi-monthly, September to May,  
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Edited by Katherine S. Wilson

## Share Your Nativity Set!

One of Trinity Church's treasured traditions in the Advent season has been the display of manger scenes in the windowsills of the nave. That tradition, like so much else, was interrupted by the pandemic in 2020, but it's back for 2021!

You are invited to bring in a crèche – homemade or store-bought, a family treasure, something you have brought home from a vacation trip – any nativity scene that you would like to share. Manger scenes can be brought to the church starting on the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, or any time thereafter through Christmas Eve. Crèches will be returned to their owners on the Sunday after the Epiphany, January 9, 2022.

*(If you would like to donate your crèche as a permanent gift to the Trinity, we will be very happy to store it at the church .)*



The parish office will be closed on December 24 and December 31.

The office will also be closed on Monday, January 17, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.



If you have a December or January birthday not listed below, please call Barbara Roos in the parish office at 860-527-8133, Ext. 204, so she can add your special day to our parish records.

### December

Tess Eckhardt	1
Marcia C. Lee	1
Margaret Rousseau	3
Marcia A. Lee	6
Ron Gripp	8
Asker Downer	9
Joe Troiano	13
Deborah Williams	13
Jonathan Ude	14
Jerrold Cammock	14
Anne Rapkin	15
Max Eckhardt	15
Georges Annan-Kingsley	15
Linda Eckert	17
Emmanuela Igboanugo	18
Jon Widing	23
Kachi Onoh	23
Kaylee Troiano	23
Paw Say Wah	24
Andrew Rose	24
Nicholas Thomas	25
Amity Gaige	26
Joseph Hewes	27
Elizabeth Windnagle	17
Emma Cheyney	29
Jonathan Garcia	29
Dianne Bowens-Waller	31

### January

Ma Aye	1
Ifeoma Mogor	1
Sandi Cone	3
Karen Hewes	4
Stephen Zhitnik	5
Beryl Tomlinson	7
Jordan Thomas	8
Emily Bohlen	9
Dorcas Blanchard	10
Heather Kramer	15
Valerie Pogue	15
George Chien	16
Ned Miller	16
Percy Williamson	16
Jorja Henderson	19
Steven Ross	19
Drew Smith	20
Zechariah	
Stephens-Walker	21
Adrian Dilone	22
Peter Rice	24
Ernestine Weaver	27
Susan Post	30



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**<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityEpiscopalHartford>**

# Outreach at Trinity



## **Holy Land Giving Tree: Help for Ahli Hospital**

The Holy Land Giving Tree is back for 2021! This is our international outreach to the place where our own religion started. The Outreach team will again offer pictures of the children of the Diocese of Jerusalem as well as festive olive wood ornaments for your own tree or as a gift. We will again be supporting the Ahli Hospital in Gaza, where all people are in great need of medicine, electricity and everyday needs; COVID-19 has been just as horrible in the Diocese of Jerusalem as here.

We ask that checks be made out to AFEDJ (American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem) with Ahli Hospital noted in the memo. Donate at church or, if you can't make it to church, send your check to Kate Smith at 106 Vista Way, Bloomfield CT 06002. All monies collected will be sent in weekly directly to the AFEDJ center.

Look for our table in Goodwin Hall before and after the 10:00 a.m. services on November 28, December 4 and 11.

Every little bit helps our brothers and sisters of the Holy Land!

– Kate Smith, AFEDJ missionary  
kate48smith@comcast.net

## **Church by the Pond December 18**

Trinity is rounding out another year in its longtime commitment to the Church by the Pond/ Feeding in the Park ministry. Thanks to the leadership of Christ Church Cathedral and the generosity of many area faith communities, a worship service followed by distribution of lunches and personal care items is held every Saturday in Bushnell Park at 2 p.m. Our next opportunity to serve is **Saturday, December 18.**

- We'll meet in the Trinity kitchen at 12:30 to prepare bag lunches, entering though the outside door to the kitchen.

- At 1:45 we'll bring the lunches to Bushnell Park, where we'll participate in the worship service by the pond, led by Rev. D.

- We'll distribute our lunches and personal care items following the service, and finish around 3:00.

All parishioners and families are welcome, but must observe mask and social distancing protocols in place for in-person worship.

Contact me at 860-243-0020 or pennypearson@comcast.net if you have questions, or if you are planning to participate, so we can coordinate social distancing.

– Penny Pearson, convener

## **Trinity's 2021 "Giving Tree" Has Arrived!**

This Advent, we are continuing Trinity's tradition of a "Giving Tree," a tree set up in the Baptistry and loaded with tags that list holiday wishes from students at Trinity Academy and children from the Adopt-A-Social Worker program of Covenant to Care.

Parishioners who wish to participate will choose a tag, purchase the item and place the unwrapped gift under the tree by **Sunday 12/12.** We are committed to these children, and it is important that all the gifts be returned by this date so that they may be distributed in time for the holidays.

We have been asked to provide:

- \$25 gift cards to either Target or Walmart for 20 students of Trinity Academy (Asylum Hill Congregational Church is providing gift cards to the other 20 students)

and

- Actual gifts as requested for 20 children through Covenant to Care

With only a few weeks to shop for and return the gifts, our elves will need to work quickly!

If you would like to participate, but will not be at Trinity in-person to select a tag in this timeframe, or if you have questions, please contact Penny Pearson at [pennypearson@comcast.net](mailto:pennypearson@comcast.net) or 860-243-0020.

Thank you!

## Vestry Designates Holiday Special Offerings

The Vestry has designated Connecticut Foodshare as the recipient of our Thanksgiving offering for 2021. This statewide organization was formed from the merger of Foodshare and Connecticut Foodbank early this year. The new organization helps fight food insecurity in all of Connecticut through a network of more than 700 community partners.

Our Christmas offering will go to support the work of Open Hearth, a Hartford agency which helps men who are experiencing homelessness to find housing and

jobs, overcome addiction, reconnect with family, and prepare to re-enter the work force. Founded in 1884, it is the oldest continually-operating housing program for men on the East Coast,

Envelopes for the Thanksgiving and Christmas special offerings are included in your 2021 box of offering envelopes. You may also mail your check to the parish office or give online at [trinityhartford.org](http://trinityhartford.org); please indicate that your offering is meant for the Thanksgiving or Christmas offering.

## Greening of the Church Set For December 19

This year's "greening of the church" will take place after the 10:00 a.m. service on December 19. You're invited to help with this festive project beginning right after the service, when, our Advent services ended, it's time to deck the church in its Christmas finery.

It takes many willing hands to decorate our beautiful worship space for Christmastide; plan to be on hand to help with this enjoyable task. Members of our altar and flower guilds will be available to show you what to do.

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## Christmas Flowers and Music



If you would like to contribute to the 2021 Christmas flowers and music in memory of a friend or family member, or as an offering of thanksgiving, please fill out the form below and send it to the parish office, along with your check, by Friday, December 17. Checks, which may be for any amount, should be made payable to Trinity Church and earmarked "Christmas Memorials." Names of those in whose memory contributions have been made will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.



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### TRINITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS - 2021

I enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Trinity Church Christmas flowers and music in memory of/ thanksgiving for:

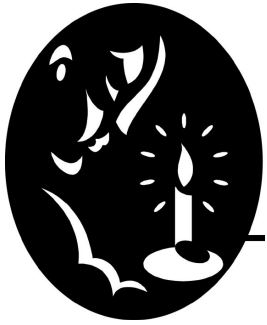
(Please print)

Contributed by: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Designate my contribution for (check one):  Flowers  Music  50/50 Flowers & Music

## Blue Christmas Service December 17

Although the Christmas holidays are a happy time for many of us, the season can be painfully long



and difficult for those dealing with sadness and loss. Again this year, Trinity Church will offer a special service

of Holy Eucharist to support those having a hard time coping with the holidays. This Blue Christmas – Service of Hope and Remembrance will take place on Friday, December 17, beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you are facing the holidays with a heavy or anxious heart, do plan to attend.

### **Thursday Service Change**

The 12 noon service on the first Thursday of each month is now an in-person service of Holy Eucharist. The service on each of the other Thursdays of the month will remain a Zoom service of noonday prayer.

## Lessons & Carols Service To Feature Music of Under-represented Composers

On Saturday, December 18, the Trinity Church choristers and adult choir will present a 7:00 p.m. service of Lessons & Carols. This service, a beloved tradition in the Anglican Church, is comprised of nine scripture readings, each telling a part of the Christmas story, and each followed by a musical selection. Candles are lit as the service progresses until we arrive at Jesus' birth.

The first formal service of "Nine Lessons and Carols" by that name took place on Christmas Eve of 1880 at Truro Cathedral in England. The best-known service of Lessons and Carols is performed annually at King's College, Cambridge, where the first such service was held in 1918; this extremely popular version of the service has been broadcast by the BBC annually since 1928, with the exception of only one year.

Our 2021 service of Lessons & Carols at Trinity will exclusively feature works by under-represented composers. For most of western music history, white men have dominated the field. For hundreds and hundreds of years, women and people of color had little chance to make careers as composers.

Subsequently, most choral libraries to this day have great disparities in terms of representation. For example, at Trinity Episcopal Church, our library includes approximately 2000 titles, only 17 of which were composed by women. (That's less than 1%.) The aim of our 2021 Lessons & Carols service is to lift up these lesser-heard voices in a most special way.

Please join us for this beautiful service of candle-lighting, scripture, and choral music.



*Christmas Flowers and Music*



## **Notes from Recent Vestry Meetings**

The October 19 Vestry meeting began with devotions led by Heather Kramer. In recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day, she read a Navajo prayer and then played a video of the prayer being recited in its original language.

The Consent Agenda, approving the minutes of the prior meeting and receiving a report from the Wardens, was approved.

Rev. D.'s Rector's Report began with thanks to the Vestry and congregation for the support shown to her and her family at the service of Installation. She also asked the Vestry to consider what can be done in the short term to strengthen the church's offerings for children, as Sunday School has not yet been able to reopen due to COVID-19 concerns.

Vestry members then split up into groups of two for one-on-one relational meetings, following guidelines provided by Rev. D. aimed at encouraging participants to communicate their personal stories, including their values and motivations.

Rev. D. then led the Vestry in an exercise to develop goals for the current program year. The group brainstormed several potential goals but did not attempt to finalize or vote on them. This will be an ongoing discussion.

One related issue raised during this discussion was the desire of some members to receive orientation training on the Vestry job description and process. Rev. D. agreed to assemble a handbook and review it at a future meeting.

Casey Rousseau provided a Treasurer's Report which showed a concerning shortfall in payments from parishioners of about \$50,000 on a year-to-date basis, a nearly 20% shortfall from the budgeted amount. This shortfall has not yet resulted in an operating deficit due to reduced spending, but there is a need for giving from parishioners to increase in order to keep the church on sound footing. In anticipation of the upcoming Annual Appeal, Casey will do more analysis to better understand what is causing this shortfall.

Mark MacGougan provided an update on the leasing of space on the second floor of the Parish House to IRIS – Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, which is in the process of moving into the former SIM office space. Because of the expanded need for refugee resettlement services this year they now plan to have six staff members there, a tight fit. They have proposed that Trinity lease them additional space consisting of the entry hall and living room of the vacant Parish House second floor apartment, neither currently in good condition. The proposal is that IRIS would lease the extra space as-is and, with the church's permission, make improvements, with the cost counting towards rent for this additional space. A motion authorizing Trinity to offer such an arrangement passed.

Mark added that a related item has come to our attention: The lease with IRIS must be approved by the Diocese under the ECCT

process for "Real Estate Alienations or Encumbrances." Rev. D. is now beginning this multi-step process with the help of the Wardens.

Under Other Business, Rev. D. invited Vestry members to volunteer for the Announcement Time Welcome via an electronic sign-up site she has set up. The meeting concluded with "A Night Prayer" from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

The Trinity Vestry held its November 16 meeting via Zoom. The meeting opened with devotions led by Rev. D., who read a reflection by Howard Thurman entitled "Reservoir, Canal or Swamp?" and asked Vestry members to consider its implications for them.

The first order of business was approving the minutes of the prior meeting.

Rev. D.'s report started with her expressing excitement about the efforts by parishioners and others to help resettle a recently-arrived family from Afghanistan. She noted an increase in in-person church attendance the prior week and wondered if this would continue or if attendance would fluctuate for a while. She expressed hope that Sunday School in some form would have an opening event in December and reopen in earnest in January.

Vestry members then split up into groups of two for one-on-one relational meetings.

*Continued on Page 10*

## ***Vestry Notes – Continued from Page 9***

There was a brief discussion of how Vestry meetings should be conducted. The consensus was that business meetings would continue via Zoom, but members would be encouraged to attend occasional development meetings in person. The December 21 meeting will be a Zoom business meeting, while the meeting on January 18 will be a development meeting focused on Relational Meeting Training and will be hybrid, with members encouraged to attend in person but able to attend through Zoom if necessary.

Casey Rousseau provided a Treasurer's Report which iterated concerns he expressed in his October report. Pledge income has been down throughout the pandemic and needs to be boosted for the church to be on secure footing for the future. November and December are usually good months for pledge income, so he expects the deficit to be reduced by year-end. Early returns from the Annual Appeal appear encouraging, but we need to keep the momentum going. The Executive Committee will be contacting parishioners whose pledges lapsed in recent years. This needs to be a pastoral call – not "Where is our money?" but "How are you doing?"

The Vestry discussed special offering designations for holidays, then voted to designate them as follows: Thanksgiving offering to FoodShare, Christmas offering to Open Hearth, Easter offering to American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

The Vestry also discussed options for restarting coffee hour. They agreed to a restart with no food – just coffee, tea and water – using disposable cups and encouraging social distancing. Vinnie will handle set-up, and Vestry members will oversee clean-up until a sign-up sheet can identify additional volunteers.

The Vestry discussed whether or not direct support for Trinity Academy should be included in the parish budget. The church currently provides a very significant in-kind donation in the form of free rent for the school's use of space in our buildings, and the Outreach Committee sometimes designates gifts to Trinity Academy. One option considered was the use of funds from the Doc Lane endowment, designated for the benefit of Hartford-area youth, to support one or more Trinity Academy student sponsorships. It was agreed to continue this discussion at another time.

Rev. D. asked for volunteers to assist in planning a Vestry retreat for sometime in the new year.

The meeting concluded with "A Night Prayer" from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

### **Coffee Hour Is Back!**

Following the Vestry discussion mentioned above, coffee hour after the 10:00 a.m. service will return on November 28. Beverages will be available, along with a chance to chat with Trinity friends old and new.

## **"Sanctuary Stitchers" Gathering January 8**

The "Sanctuary Stitchers," Trinity's prayer shawl ministry group, has resumed meeting in person, and our next gathering is Saturday, January 8, from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Library.

We meet for fellowship and knitting, crocheting or other portable crafting. The group creates items for members of the parish and ministry partners. This season we are knitting cowl neck warmers to be offered to those attending Church by the Pond, and blankets for young children to be offered to Covenant to Care.

All are welcome! Please contact me at [pennypearson@comcast.net](mailto:pennypearson@comcast.net) or 860-243-0020 if you have any questions, or would like to be included in group communications.

– Penny Pearson, convener

### ***Book Group To Discuss Baldwin Classic***

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin is the story of the teenage stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in March of 1935. Trinity's book group will discuss this classic novel at its meeting on Friday, January 14, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend! Martha Freimuth will host this meeting at her home, with attendees wearing masks. Please contact her for more information and to let her know if you're planning to attend at 860-647-8990 or [lems.cove@yahoo.com](mailto:lems.cove@yahoo.com).

## **Concert was a Scream!**

As the days get colder and the frost sets in, our hallowed sanctuary at Trinity remains filled with songs. In late October, we hosted the 30<sup>th</sup> annual PipeScreams, a Halloween-themed pipe organ extravaganza sponsored by the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Nearly 200 attendees filled the church for this event. Costumed organists, aged 16-65, performed while numerous theatrics ensued – spiders jumping out from behind columns and crawling into the balcony, bats and ghosts dangling in the air, dry ice mist seeping out over eerie ledges while organists dueted over the bench, escaped via invisibility cloaks, and were spooked by all sorts of shenanigans, including a giant spider on a hidden hydraulic aerial lift! The evening began with interactive ghost stories, told around a bonfire in the labyrinth outside while children assembled a working pipe organ. After the church proved to be too haunted, the audience was led outside by ushers carrying torches and buckets of candy. The second half of the concert was held at Asylum Hill Congregational Church, and included Halloween singalongs and a grand finale for organ and drums. Never has a more enthusiastic, more diverse audience attended an organ event, in my experience. It was a night of shared silliness and great love for this instrument – a night to surely remember!

– Michelle Horsley  
Director of Music Ministries

## **Fall Updates from the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association**

**Police Report:** Officer Palmieri spoke about his work at local schools and at Sigourney Park. He's spending time at the corner of Laurel Street and Farmington Avenue with Officer Jimmy Barrett helping the homeless and those hanging at the corner as part of dealing with issues that get forgotten within a population that is often neglected.

\*\*\*Remember to remove items from view inside your cars to lower the number of car break-ins.

Chief Thody gave an extensive presentation. His areas of concern are:

- Creating a safer Sigourney Park
- Quality of life issues (noise, drinking, loitering)
- Red light cameras – useful or not?
- Scooters – problems with use on sidewalks
- Neighborhood watch – yes/no?
- Traffic calming methods
- Increased police presence

**Community Court:** Court is extremely busy, with lots of cases that backlogged due to COVID-19. You will start to see individuals performing community service as their cases get processed.

**Comet Diner:** The building is now on the National Park Preservation list. Work is continuing on getting the business open again.

**Green Committee:** Composters have been distributed to both Trinity Academy and Niles Garden and are now in use.

**Emergency Relief Fund:** Reported by Lynn Webber from the Village. The fund has the ability to give money to residents of Asylum Hill, with up to \$3000 available for rent, security deposits, unpaid bills, etc.

**85 Sigourney Street:** The building has been sold. The new buyers are soliciting ideas for usage via a needs assessment of the neighborhood.

**The October Meeting** was a presentation of a draft of the Strategic Plan for Asylum Hill. There will be eight task forces. They are:

- Arts and Culture
- Economic Development
- Employment
- Environmental and Green Initiatives
- Housing and Historic Preservation
- Human Services
- Public Safety
- Youth and Education

Each task force group presented its discussions. The steering committee was then to review the information and prepare it for presentation to a November 17 neighborhood stakeholders breakfast.

– Boo Morton



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