

Trinity Episcopal Church
and
Trinity Parish Nursery School

651 Pequot Avenue, PO Box 400
Southport CT 06890
203.255.0454 (Office)
203.255.6096 (Fax)

**FEBRUARY -
MARCH 2012**



The Rector's View

Late one night, Dorothy and I watched a segment from Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. Watching the half-ling hero, Mr. Frodo, agree to carry and destroy the ring of power was like watching lightning fall from a clear sky.

Quite unexpectedly, Frodo discovers that the humdrum happiness of his homeland, which he had taken for granted as something normal, is in reality a sort of local and temporary accident that depends on being protected by powers that he dare not imagine and that to protect his home he must venture out and be caught up in the high conflict.

More strangely still, the outcome of that conflict between the strongest of things will come to depend on Frodo, who is almost the weakest. This is his destiny. Success hinges on his overcoming the hubris, apathy and fear that lives in himself and in others. His is an impossible journey to save all that he holds to be good, true and holy.

My sisters and brothers, I stand before you today to say that ours is the same destiny. The world is not what it was. Advances in technology together with the global financial crisis of 2008 have brought about a societal sea-change.

Today, those fields of human endeavor that Aristotle called the "higher ethers"—education, the arts, charity, politics, and religion—find themselves struggling to survive. 19th and 20th century modes of organization and experience are rapidly losing traction. The four-year residential college system is now threatened; Washington writhes in gridlock; the



NYC Ballet Company is due to close; the Methodist Church in Massachusetts doubts it will even last another generation.

The Eye of Saron is upon Southport. The humdrum happiness of this village or the beauty and life of Trinity Parish are not something that we can take for granted. Like Frodo and his friends, we too must claim our destiny and make the same journey to save all that we hold to be good, true and holy. And because we have leadership potential, the outcome of today's conflict between the biggest of things may well come to depend on parishes, who are almost the smallest.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau and the national Episcopal Church, church attendance has dropped off dramatically since the 1960's. Fewer

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Children's & Youth Programs	10	Outreach	5
Curate on the Courtyard	7	Parish Doings	3, 8-9
Lay Reader Training	4	Safe Space	4
Lenten Schedule	6	Trinity Parish Nursery School	11

The Rector's View

and fewer American belong to a parish church and those who do give less and less to support their church's ministry and mission.

Fewer people and less support mean that our parish's future is not a matter of a few better sermons or a jolly stewardship campaign. Each year for most of the past 25, this parish has run a sizable deficit. Today's trends mean that we are never going to catch up. The 19th Century American model that assumes annual appeal pledges will pay for the building, ministry and mission is no longer a viable model. We are playing a poker-game that the house always wins, and the house is bankruptcy.

Not convinced? Not sure that now is the time to act? Let me help: in October, the Diocese of Connecticut passed a resolution that, should a parish fail to pay its annual assessment for two consecutive years, the bishop is empowered to close that parish and dispose of its assets as he sees fit.

The Vestry and I have discussed and debated the challenge at length. We believe that the future of our parish lies in changing how we organize ourselves and raise support; that our future lies in forging a new model of parish that involves deliberately evolving from a club to a co-op, and from love to devotion.

What I am advocating is not a nostalgic return to the past, but an advance—in fact nothing short of the conquest of new social and spiritual territory. There is a lot at stake here. This parish is part of our spiritual heritage and patrimony, who here would not like their daughter or their granddaughter to walk down this isle to get married? I know I would. It's time to shift from defense to offense.

How will we accomplish this? Hear Peter again: "Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, into a holy priesthood..." We will craft a new model of parish by

getting closer to Jesus through study, prayer and action, adjusting our priorities and allowing ourselves to be reshaped by Christ. Jesus died and rose again that we might have new life in God. The Lord wants to bless us and help us in the journey to save all that we hold good and true and holy.

Like Frodo and like Christ Jesus, we begin with ourselves. The success of our impossible journey hinges on overcoming the hubris, apathy and fear that lives in each of us. To be built up as a holy priesthood is to be intercessors between God and the world and a Christian in whom God can be recognized and followed.

The saints teach that such discipleship requires the holy habits of reading the Word, prayer, and kindness. If you are not reading the Bible, praying and caring for others each day, I urge you to begin. If you need encouragement, join one of our many prayer, study and fellowship groups. We will all need strength and faith for the journey ahead.

The next life-changing area of focus for us is this building-complex and the entire parish campus. December 2012 is the sesquicentennial anniversary of this beautiful carpenter gothic church. It was originally built to support the parish's ministry and mission. Today the ministry and mission support the building.

Over the next two years, the Vestry, staff and I believe that we should make the necessary adjustments to right this. Does it make sense to expand our nursery school? Could part of the building provide housing for staff members? And what about that parking-lot? Along with exploring these and other ideas, we intend to launch a capital campaign to fund a maintenance endowment of this building. Because Trinity Church is the face of the Southport, we believe that this campaign will be of interest to our neighbors as well.

That gets me to the last point. We need to embrace our neighbors. Trinity Church is a village church and along with everyone else this church should be filled with the village. Our partnerships

The Rector's View

with other institutions and entities in the village need to grow and our presence in the village needs to increase. We would like to know what every resident thinks of Trinity and what they would like from us. Personally, my goal is for every household in Southport to be involved with Trinity Parish, either as a parishioner, or as a school parent or as someone who regularly enjoys our arts and educational programs.

The journey of our lives lies ahead of us. Like the half-ling Frodo and like the carpenter-boy Jesus, we feel small. How can we make a difference? Yes, the challenge is big. Yes, the stakes are high, but they are more than worth what its required of us to succeed. I say this because the rock of Calvary is the stone that the builders of Herod's Temple rejected. The prophecy of the psalm is real. Christ Jesus' life, death and resurrection for us are real. The question before us is what are we going to do about it, how are we going to respond? I hope that you will join me at the communion rail to taste God's grace, and I hope that you will join the Vestry and me on this impossible journey made possible by God's Holy Spirit.

Fr. Nicholas+



TRINITY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP OPEN HOUSE!

Are you a busy mom who'd like to strengthen your spiritual growth by discussing how Jesus is relevant to your modern life? Come and check us out! We'll sip coffee, get to know each other, and provide a better idea of what our bible study and fellowship group is all about.

When: Tuesday, February 14th
Time: 9:15am – 11:30am
 (drop-in's and infants welcome!)

Where: Trinity Library
 (upstairs from TPNS drop off)

Rsvp: suzanneschulz@optonline.net
 or charlottebartol@gmail.com

Middle East Forums 2012



Thursday Evenings in March
Trinity Parish Hall

6:00 PM Simple Supper
 6:30 PM Evening Prayers
 7-8:30 PM Program and Discussion

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Worship. Learn. Enjoy.

Trinity Episcopal Church, 651 Pequot Avenue
 Southport, CT • 203-255-0454
 • www.trinitysouthport.org
**Forums Are Free of Charge and
 Open to the Public**

TRINITY BOOK GROUP 2012

Come to the Library at 6 PM with a brown-bag supper—discussion begins promptly at 6:30 PM.

We continue our meetings with American authors and poets whose writings reflect different points in our nation's history. Remaining readings scheduled:
Feb. 1 – Edith Wharton, *Age of Innocence*

March 7 – Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*

April 4 – Katherine Anne Porter, *Flowering Judas and Other Stories*

May 2 – William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

June 6 – John Updike, *Rabbit, Run*

Serve as an Acolyte!

If you've resolved to serve Trinity in 2012, becoming an Acolyte is a significant way to do so, with a minimal time commitment. Adults who'd like to serve occasionally, or young people (grade 4 or older) interested in learning more, please Email Christine Restrepo at chrisres@optonline.net Thank you!

Community

Keeping Trinity a Safe Space

In mid-December, the mature son of a well known local family wrote a courageous op-ed piece in the *Fairfield Citizen* disclosing claims of being sexually abused as a teenager. While the alleged events occurred almost 40 years ago, his words rightly sent shock waves through many parts of the Fairfield and Southport communities. He and I have spoken on more than one occasion since, and I am happy to report that Trinity Church plays no role in those heartbreaking events of the 1970s.

However, I wish to reiterate Trinity Church's steadfast commitment to the physical, emotional and spiritual safety of all its parishioners. It is our policy that every employee undergoes a criminal background check before being hired. All employees and volunteers (both in the Church and TPNS) who work with minors must complete the Safe Church Training program of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. Those who have completed this program are required periodically to renew their certification. The program will again be held at Trinity Church on Saturday, March 3 for those requiring certification. (Please contact Sharon Turlis to participate.)

Since mid-December, I have met with every employee of Trinity Church to review safe church practices, which include never working alone with a single minor and never leaving a child or teen alone in a room or an automobile with any adult other than that child's parent or designated caregiver. Other steps have been taken as well to keep our shared school and spiritual home safe for everyone on our premises.

Much of every week since the op-ed piece was published has been spent meeting with concerned parishioners and members of the wider community. If you have any questions or concerns about Trinity Church's safe church policies, or if the piece published in the newspaper affects you pastorally, I welcome the chance to meet confidentially with you.

Finally, let me point out that the physical, emotional or sexual abuse of children and teenagers doesn't just happen in "other" places. In today's America, it also can happen in affluent communities like our own. I hope that you will stand with me to keep our parish a safe space by abiding by the policies and by participating in safe church training if required to do so. Every child's safety is always priceless.

Sincerely, Nicholas Porter +

Lay Reader's Training

Saturday, February 11

1:00 - 2:30PM

In cooperation with Holy Spirit, West Haven, Fr. Geoff Hahneman of St. John's will be leading a training workshop for Lay Readers.

In former times, Lay Readers had to be licensed by the Bishop. Now, by canon, they are locally trained. A Lay Reader is someone prepared to lead worship in the absence of clergy, specifically someone who is trained to lead Morning and Evening Prayer—not as easy as it might seem!

Because the future of local congregations will depend more and more upon strong lay readers, this training will be most useful to us all. Lectors and Intercessors (or interested Readers) are strongly encouraged to sign up to attend this special training. Please contact (email or phone): The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, 868 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Ct. 06604, 203-335-2528, ghahneman@gmail.com



Message from The Rector:

Calling All Moses Baskets!

Tim and Molly Howe have just become the proud parents of healthy **Twins!** The Howes are new parents and would appreciate any "Moses" Baskets that our Parish might donate. Please bring them to the office. Thanks you !

Community

Deanery DateLine

Greater Bridgeport Deanery
Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut
Bptdeanery@aol.com

• **January 16, 2012 - 2011 Update**
A record **151,931 meals** have been served by Deanery Parishes in this reporting period, an increase of 43,487 over last year and 81,165 since 2008.

(Parish/ Services Available)

Calvary Saint George's Episcopal Church
Weekly Community Supper
Mondays, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Calvary Saint George's Food Pantry
Pantry - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Saint John's Episcopal Church
Weekly Community Supper
Tuesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Saint John's Family Center
Community Pantry
2nd and 4th Saturdays of the Month, 9:30 -11:30 AM

Saint Luke & Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
Pantry, Monday -Thursday, 10:00 AM -12:30 PM
Weekly Community Supper, Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 PM
Used Clothing Distribution, during Pantry and Community Supper hours

Number of meals served in each location between December 1, 2010 – November 30, 2011

Calvary Saint George's Community Suppers –4,875
Calvary Saint George's Food Pantry – 34,634
Saint John's Community Suppers – 5,894
Saint John's Community Pantry - 68,200
Saint Luke/Saint Paul's Community Suppers – 5,638
Saint Luke/Saint Paul's Food Pantry – 32,690

Data courtesy of
The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport.

Many thanks
to those who assist in this Ministry!



Office Volunteer Bern Archer and Zoe "mind the store."

Be a Trinity Office Volunteer! If you want an easy way to feel needed, loved, useful and appreciated, we love to welcome new members to our Volunteer crew. Companion animals will be made much of, as well! Please Email: admin@trinitysouthport.org if you are interested and able to give even a few hours, or speak to Chair of Volunteers: Dana Silzer 203-371-7035.

Healing Hearts Support Group

SolAmor Hospice, in conjunction with Shaughnessey Banks Funeral Home, will be offering an 8-week support group for widows and widowers, "Healing Hearts."

The current group begins Thursday, February 9, 2012, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Shaughnessey Banks Funeral Home, 50 Reef Road, in Fairfield Center, meeting each Thursday through March 22, 2012. There is no fee for this program. The group will be led by Norma Schmidt, Chaplain at SolAmor Hospice. To register or for more information call Terese Travis-Horvath at 203-255-1031, or Norma Schmidt at 203-301-0489.

Lent 2012 at Trinity Church

February 2012 - Lenten Services, Study & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19 "Phat Sunday" 8am, HE Rite I 10am, HE Rite I Mardi Gras	20 7:30am MP	21 7:30am MP 10:30am HE @ S'port Manor	22 Ash Wednesday Services 7:30am; 11am; 6:30pm	23 7:30am MP	24 7:30am MP Vestry Retreat	25 Vestry Retreat
26 8am, HE Rite I 10am, HE Rite I	27 7:30am MP	28 7:30am MP	29 7:30am MP 11am HE/Healing 12Noon Bible St.		Call: 203-255-0454	Visit: www.trinitysouthport.org

March 2012 - Lenten Services, Study & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please Note!	Space <u>did not</u> allow	Listing of <u>all</u> Church Activities!		1 7:30am MP 10am Psalms 7pm Mid-East Forum Lecture	2 7:30am MP Haiti Benefit dinner off-site	3
4 8am, HE Rite I 10am, HE Rite I 6pm LentenStudy	5 7:30am MP	6 7:30am MP 11am HE @ Carolton	7 7:30am MP 11am HE/Healing 12Noon Bible St.	8 7:30am MP 10am Psalms 7pm Mid-East Forum Lecture	9 9:30 & 10am TPNS Chapel	10
11 HE Rite I 8am & 10am, w/Bishop Laura Ahrens Vestry lunch 6pm LentenStudy	12 7:30am MP	13 7:30am MP	14 7:30am MP 11am HE/Healing 12Noon Bible St.	15 7:30am MP 10am Psalms 7pm Mid-East Forum Lecture	16 7:30am MP	17
18 8am, HE Rite I 10am, HE Rite I 6pm LentenStudy	19 7:30am MP	20 7:30am MP 10:30am HE @ S'port Manor	21 7:30am MP 11am HE/Healing 12Noon Bible St.	22 7:30am MP 10am Psalms 7pm Mid-East Forum Lecture	23 7:30am MP	24
25 8am, HE Rite I 10am, HE Rite I 6pm LentenStudy	26 7:30am MP	27 7:30am MP	28 7:30am MP 11am HE/Healing 12Noon Bible St.	29 7:30am MP 10am Psalms 7pm Mid-East Forum Lecture	30 7:30am MP	31

April 2012 - Lenten Services, Study & Events

1 Palm Sunday 9:30 Palms @ Perry Green Procession 10am HE II @ Church	2 7:30am MP	3 7:30am HE 11am HE @ Carolton	4 7:30am MP 11am HE/ Healing 12Noon Bible St.	5 Maundy Thurs 7:30am MP 7pm Maundy Svc. 8:15pm Lenten meal 9pm Vigil begins	6 Good Friday 7:30am MP 11am Way of the Cross 12 Noon - St. John Passion	7 Easter Vigil 7pm Service 9pm lite supper
8 Easter Day 9am Festal HE II 10:15 am Egg Hunt 11am Festal HE II	9 Easter Monday Offices Closed	10 7:30am MP	11 7:30am MP 11am HE/Healing no Bible Study	12 7:30am MP	13 7:30am MP	14

Curate on the Courtyard

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
 I do not see the road ahead of me.
 I cannot know for certain where it will end.
 Nor do I really know myself,
 and the fact that I think I am following your
 will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
 But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact
 please you.
 And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
 I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
 And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the
 right road,
 though I may know nothing about it.
 Therefore I will trust you always
 though I may seem to be lost and in the
 shadow of death.
 I will not fear for you are ever with me,
 and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
 Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*

Do we *ever* really know where we are going? I'm not asking about the obvious external roads we take to get to school, jobs and shopping which we choose or get chosen for us. Rather, I'm asking about our interior roads—those obscure and winding roads in our heart and soul that we travel alone and that leave us questioning and exhausted at strange rest stops or on unfamiliar door steps where, as Teresa of Avila said, “we just don't understand ourselves or know who we are.”

So often this question emerges when we're smack dab in the middle of relationships or circumstances that suddenly change and force us to adapt whether we like it or not. The relationship as we had known it, for better or for worse, is over. And hardest of all is that we are left to confront those hidden parts of ourselves which include our own complicity in what is happening and our doubts about where “it”—and we—are going to end up. We can point fingers, rationalize out the wazoo, or try to hold others accountable for the cursed change. Yet the more we resist doing our own interior work, the harder it becomes (and the more hardened we become) to letting go of what is unhealthy in ourselves and in our relationships.

Reading the words of profound uncertainty as well as deep faith in Thomas Merton's beautiful prayer gives me comfort. How wonderfully ironic that one of the greatest spiritual writers of the 20th Century can talk about having no idea where he is going. Most of us would never have the courage to admit this to others. Everything is either “fine” or we deflect the uncertainty by focusing on others and thinking, if not saying, where we think they should go.

As someone who tries to be faithful, I have to be extra careful I don't go the “fine” route, giving quick lip service to God's presence—“thank you, God, for this food we are about to eat” or “lead us, God, during our meeting tonight”—then feeling and acting as if I'm completely on my own. When dinner conversation doesn't go my way or the meeting fails to live up to my expectations, I forget my role is to please God and to think and do what God would have me to do.

During Lent, which begins February 22, I want to invite you to join and journey with me by participating in one or more of the special parish programs being offered. I'm looking for some “companions on the way” who are willing to meet me at Morning Prayer, pray with the Psalms on Thursday mornings, walk and/or meditate on our beautiful church grounds or in the neighborhood or share an occasional meal. What might be a Lenten discipline you would like to do and we can share together? I welcome an opportunity to get to know myself and you better. That in the midst of our uncertainties, we can share our faith and support a way or two in which God is certainly leading each of us. I look forward to hearing from you and sharing ideas.

Mother Dawn+ 203-255-0454, ext. 305.
curate@trinitysouthport.org



*A warm early
 January made
 too-soon
 daffodil buds
 appear along
 the TPNS wall!*

Parish Doings



Attendees at the Foyer Dinner Cocktail Party at the Rectory.



Sharon Turlis leads some of the children in a song during Children's Time with God before the Annual Meeting.

THE WELL-SEASONED LUNCHEON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

The 2012 Annual Well-Seasoned Luncheon will take place in the Parish Hall at Noon, on Thursday, February 16.

The event is free, *but R.S.V.P.* to Sue Carpenter: 203-255-0615!

Educating for Prosperity and Peace

Trinity Parish of Southport's longstanding commitment to its health mission in Honduras is well known. On Thursday, February 9, at 7:30 PM a "Trinity" of other inspiring outreach initiatives led by Trinity parishioners will be the focus of a special evening forum:

Eileen Weber, Trinity Coordinator for *Trinity in Motion*, will present the work St. Paul's, St. Timothy's and Trinity church has been doing to support the Holy Trinity School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Susy Whitcomb, Ph.D., President of *Haitian Educational Initiatives*, will describe her foundation's work feeding, educating, and tutoring impoverished children in Jacmel, Haiti.

The Rev. Nicholas T. Porter, Rector of Trinity Church, Southport, will present *Jerusalem Ministries at Acer Farm*, a summer leadership camp for Palestinian, Israeli and American teenagers.

Everyone is invited for Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 6:30 PM, followed by soup and conversation at 7 PM in the Parish Hall. The Forum begins at 7:30 PM.

Praying the Psalms

Pat Spoor invites you to join her on Thursday mornings during Lent for a 5-week program; "Praying the Psalms." This series looks at how the psalmist can teach us to express our hopes and needs, fears and joys to a God described in language rich in imagery and metaphors. Surely our personal prayer life will be enhanced.

Meetings are Thursdays, March 1 – March 29, in the library 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

Everyone is welcome. To sign up, or for more information, email or call Pat Spoor, 203-226-1530 or ppspoor@optonline.net

Parish Doings



Grandfather and grandson usher together at the service before the Annual Meeting.

Your ideas are needed for Art & Soul 2012!

Thank you! You've helped **Art & Soul** have a terrific fall/winter, a feast of lectures and field trips.

We're already thinking about next year and want your comments to make it even better. It's been suggested that we do an overnight trip to Williamstown to see The Clark Museum and The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Are you interested – or do you think we should stay closer to Southport? **All ideas and feedback are welcome!**

Please email or call Sheila Traub at 203 661-0054, or sheilastraub@optonline.net with whatever strikes your fancy.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Exploring Your Gifts

A Sunday evening Lenten study will be offered March 4, 11, 18, and 25, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Each session includes a light supper.

This 4-week journey is an opportunity to participate in a process of self-discovery to identify your gifts and the ways you may want to use them in moving toward living a fuller and more authentic life. Through interactive learning and thought-provoking activities, participants will probe the possibilities and opportunities for growth by using their individual gifts in daily life. You will also be able to consider how your Christian faith together with your gifts might call you to “shared ministry.”

To sign up for the course or for more information please contact facilitator Jean Moffitt before February 27: 203-374-1242, or E-mail: jean_moffitt@sbcglobal.com



A young Trinity Chorister played solo flute in Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," at the single 9 AM service before our Annual Meeting, January 29.

Children's & Youth Programs

“CTG” Children's Time with God

Our CTG program, formerly known as *Church School*, continues to grow. Since the New Year, we have been dividing the groups into more manageable numbers, and I have hired Janet Souza as a part-time teacher to assist with grades 3, 4 and 5. All children continue to meet in the parish hall at 9:45 AM. They have prayer time together, and a lesson based on the same readings their parents are hearing during worship. The older children then move into the Trinity Room to delve deeper into the biblical references and history. The younger children are provided a craft or further discussion on their perspective of the story's meaning using the Godly Play format of wondering questions.

During January, the focus has been on *What is a Disciple and how can I be a disciple to my family and friends*. We acted out in the parish hall the reading from St. Mark of the calling of the disciples, with Youth Group members assisting in the role play. We also used the visual symbol of fish in different shapes and colors to bring in the concept that anyone can be a disciple who believes and follows Jesus Christ and his teachings.

In February we will be preparing the children to make their decisions about Lent. We are often caught off guard, choosing the easy way to follow our Christian upbringing by giving up chocolate, or some other inconsequential element in our lives. We are hoping to encourage children to pick something tough for them, to strengthen their spiritual muscles by fighting against a temporary temptation, and relying on God to give them strength through prayer. The approach is to encourage successes in resisting temptations while they are still small and have the safety net of adults so that when larger temptations and peer pressure become part of their lives they can fall back on personal history and relationship with their Lord to help them follow the right path. And, of course, the power of forgiveness can be explored should we fail to resist.

The children will be involved in an outreach project making Valentines for the residents of Carolton, which will be combined with roses purchased by the Vestry. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children during class time and creative times. Any questions, comments or concerns should be forwarded to Sharon Turlis, Director of Children's and Youth Ministry churchschool@trinitysouthport.org

Youth Ministry: Now

I recently attended the first of four workshops on the importance of building relationships, which are being held at Berkley Divinity School, New Haven. The speaker, Dr. Andrew Root, author of *The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry*, explored relational youth ministry and our contemporary understanding with our youth. Many times Youth leaders are seeking a relationship with youth to influence them towards a specific end. Although the goals of confirmation and leading a spiritual life are worthy, the fact is that youth, just as adults do, see through and resist this transparent ulterior motive. Instead, Dr. Root uses the term

“place-sharing.” As Christ took our place on the cross and continues to share our lives through hell and back, youth leaders need to strive to be with youth in the same manner. Getting to know children for the purpose of accepting them for who they are and what they hope to become and do with their lives.

This year's Youth Group has a lot of growing up to do, but that allows us to be on the ground floor with them—encouraging them to discover who they are, what they see as their purpose in life, and how they can make a difference in the world they are inheriting. I'm happy to report

Continued on page 11

Trinity Parish Nursery School

A Note from the Director...

What a terrific holiday season it was! Thanks for the coats, books, and pajamas donated for those less fortunate. Our Dinosaur Paw Book Fair was a great success and the pajama party so fun and festive between Santa's visit and Emily's sing-a-long from Music for Children . . . special thanks to Robyn Bilotta, Liz Giardina, and Janine Webb for making this all happen!

We also loved the sharing of family traditions—the true spirit of the holiday season was alive and well throughout our school!

It always amazes me how the children seem to grow by “leaps and bounds” during the holiday break. It's always so nice to get back into our school routine in the New Year—may we all enjoy a year filled with good health, peace and happiness!

Meg Reilly
T.P.N.S. Director

Youth Ministry: Now *Continued from page 10*

that one of the young men of our Parish, Geoff Birt, has volunteered to help. In his own words, “I have great memories of being in Youth Group. We did some fantastic things and had a lot of fun. I still remember going and reading to old people and the feeling that gave me.” Stephen and I look forward to working with him.

Stephen Blackmer, our Seminarian, will soon be graduating and leaving us in April to return home to New Hampshire. His spiritual influence has been a great addition to the program, among other things, by helping our youth become more comfortable in the chapel and in using the Book of Common Prayer. He has also encouraged the group to be at ease in creating their own prayers. He will be missed.

The workshops I mentioned are free and open to the public. If you are interested, please contact me at churchschool@trinitysouthport.org or call me at 203.255.0454.

T.P.N.S. Fall Registration... We have openings in our Two's program for next year. Please pass on this info to interested friends.

Parking... Parking continues to be a challenge, especially during the morning drop off time. Parking in the front of the church is ONLY for parents with sick children, new babies, or car-pools of 3 or more. We are under alert that it is illegal to park around the island and on the street for drop off AND pick up. Please keep our children safe!

Spring into Trinity!... “an evening out with fun, food, and friends! . . .” This popular annual fund-raiser for TPNS is planned for Friday, May 11, 2012. Please contact Ashley Gray (Emelyn 5 day 4's) or Andrea Shantz (Max 3 day 3's) if you would like to get involved.

Snow Day Policy... If Fairfield Public Schools are delayed due to inclement weather, TPNS will open from 10:30 to 12:00 that day. If Fairfield Schools are closed, we are closed. ONLY IF there are changes to this policy, will we activate our phone tree. Thanks!

Parent/Teacher Conferences... Parent/Teacher conferences have been taking place since November and continue throughout February. *Conference time is any time that a parent or teacher has a concern*, whether the child is a 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-year-old. Never hesitate to speak to your teacher—communication is the key to your child having a successful school year.

Dates to Remember...

Tuesday, Feb. 14 - Happy Valentine's Day

Monday, Feb. 20-24 - Winter Recess, No School!

LET'S TACKLE HUNGER!
TPNS is conducting a **“SOUPER BOWL”!**

**PLEASE HELP US SCORE POINTS
AGAINST HUNGER!**

Through Friday, February 3rd - TPNS is collecting cans of soup, vegetables, and all other non-perishable food items to be donated to the CT Food Bank. The collection bin is directly through the double doors.



Check for Breaking
News!
www.trinitysouthport.org

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TRINITY PARISH NURSERY SCHOOL

651 Pequot Avenue
PO Box 400
Southport, CT 06890
203.255.0454
203.255.6096 (Fax)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:45 AM Church School and Child Care
10:00 AM Choral Eucharist, Rite II



Trinity Church Staff

The Rev. Nicholas T. Porter, *Rector*

The Rev. Dawn Stegelmann, *Curate*

The Rev. R. Mark Glidden, *Assoc. Clergy*

Stephen Blackmer, *Seminarian*

Brandon Beachamp, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Sharon Turlis, *Children's/Youth Program Director*

Meg Reilly, *Nursery School Director*

Melanie Andrews, *Financial Officer*

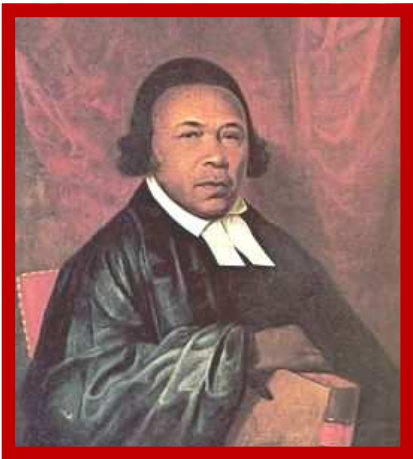
Cassia Ward, *Spire Editor, Communications*

Ed Michaels, *Photographer*

Russ Preisick, *Sexton*

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday — Friday
9:00 AM — 4:00 PM



**A Service of Choral Evensong
for the Feast of Absalom Jones
Sunday, February 12, 5pm**
Attend the well-beloved service of Evensong
in Trinity's Sanctuary as we celebrate
the first African American to be
ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church.