

**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)

**OCTOBER-  
NOVEMBER 2011**



**The Rector's View**

**The God of our Backyard**

Each September the mystery of creation unfolds before my daughters and me. The month is spent nurturing clumsy, yellow, black and white striped caterpillars with milkweed until they each form an emerald green chrysalis laced with tiny dots of gold. Then a time of patient observation begins as the chrysalises slowly become ever more transparent.

Eventually, early one morning, my girls discover that in place of a chrysalis, there rests a Monarch butterfly, gingerly trying out its new wings of amber, onyx and ivory. It is a sight of great beauty that points to the great changes we seek in our own lives. But it only lasts for a few minutes before the delicate creature is off, flying south toward a destination it has never seen.

The caterpillars' gradual transformation, nature's beauty and our sense of intimacy with creatures we hardly understand never fails to captivate each of us. What we learn about ourselves and the infinitely complex gift of life always reminds us that God is to be found in our backyard.

I have heard many a gardener, woodsman and sailor remark much the same. And yet how often do we exchange the accessible power and presence of God for the sound and the fury of some remote heroic experience, thereby missing the grace of our ordinary lives? Author George Moore writes, "A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it."



What we need to be happy and the God whose grace makes it possible are nearby. Trinity Church is that home where we can find the hope, inspiration and acceptance that we and our loved ones need to grow spiritually, morally and intellectually.

Our mission is to be a *voice* of informed Christianity, a *place* of acceptance and commitment, and a *people* of prayer and action.

This autumn, we are making a major investment in the nurture and formation of our youngest members by creating a new position of Director for Children's and Youth Ministries. Young souls and young lives need special care in today's social environment. Our new cohesive program will provide them with the building blocks of spiritual health and happiness that our adult parishioners enjoy with our flagship ministries.

Our Annual Pledge Appeal to support the mission and ministry of Trinity Church is about to begin. Please volunteer for a ministry. Please give generously. Please pray for the clergy and people of our Church. And let us pray for ourselves that we will honor God by giving of ourselves so that our parish will continue to develop as a destination for families seeking happiness and meaningful Christianity.

Thank you, *Nicholas Porter* +

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## Curate on the Courtyard

For the first time in my life, I got in my car and started driving west last June with no itinerary, no reservations, and no traveling companions. This unusual trip was partly about an unfulfilled desire to “escape” when my children were little and I was in the midst of the daily grind of diapers, play dates and car pools. But with all three boys heading off to college now and my disbelief at where the years had gone, I knew it was time to finally make such a trip and see where it took me. No strings attached, no children to attend to and a loving husband willing to humor me for a few days or so.

This was a freedom pilgrimage of sorts. I was free from commitments, from obligations, from job and household responsibilities. Most importantly, I was free to spend time with God in unexpected places and with unexpected people.



*Photo: D. Stegelmann*

My first stop was in Fort Lee, NJ, where I parked the car and walked across the George Washington

Bridge. When I reached the mid-point of the span, I stopped and looked south over the Hudson River and toward the city skyline. It was a familiar scene.



*Photo: D. Stegelmann*

One I first saw 27 years ago when, as newlyweds, Murry and I were arriving in the city in his old Ford Granada (the “nada,” which we were assured would survive just fine and might even conveniently disappear on the streets of New York one day). Gazing at that beautiful skyline with six lanes of cars speeding behind me, I couldn’t help but think about how much changes yet stays the same.

Another stop on my freedom pilgrimage was somewhere in the middle of Pennsylvania. I got off the highway and drove into a small town where a brightly-lit sign for the “HeBrews Coffeehouse” was prominently displayed. I realized I’d struck caffeine gold, made a delicious purchase and went in search of a place to stay. I spent the next few days at a 150-year-old hotel and hiked in the surrounding “hills.” I surprised myself and found the Lord “freed” my lips on those trails. I started singing hymns and canticles, praying, and reverencing all that was in nature around me. I had missed being alone with God and with myself. That relationship becomes vulnerable to all the chatter and demands of things urgent rather than important in my life. I was the same person to God, but so much had changed.

*Continued on page 3*

## Curate on the Courtyard (cont.)

For the next several days, my freedom pilgrimage took me to museums to learn more about Native American tribes in colonial days and the pop art of Andy Warhol. I visited an artisans' workshop in Kentucky and spent an evening listening to banjo music in the "square" of a small town in southern Indiana. I was delighted by what was offered to me through my senses. Doing what Jesus invites us to do, to "taste and see." With a car full of programs, pamphlets and several purchases, I arrived at our Indiana lake house and was welcomed as the familiar mom and daughter, neighbor and family member I am expected to be. I was the same person and yet how much had changed on my trip.



*Photo: D. Stegelmann*

Returning this fall to church, many of us were reassured by the beauty of our worship space, the constancy of our liturgy and music, and reuniting with family and friends. It's for those reasons and more that we come back. Back to Trinity where we know we can feel safe and vulnerable both at the same time and before God. And yet, we've had some changes. Changes in our music and church school leadership. Changes in the make-up of our church family by people moving away or dying and by newcomers who seek baptism for their children and for fellowship with other families and individuals in a Christian setting. How much there is that changes yet stays the same.

*Mother Dawn+*

## Meet Our Seminarian



**Stephen Blackmer** has joined Trinity's Staff this year as our Seminary Intern. He is in his third and final year at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and while at Trinity he'll be focusing on Youth Ministry and Pastoral Care. He will be with us as his school schedule permits, primarily on Mondays and Wednesdays and once a month at Sunday worship through April 2012.

Stephen received a B.A. in Anthropology from Dartmouth in 1979 and a master's in Forestry from Yale in 1983, and prior to returning to Yale to train for the priesthood, Stephen was a regional and national leader in land conservation and established numerous non-profit conservation organizations.

When not in Connecticut, Stephen's home is in Canterbury, New Hampshire, where he has lived with his wife, Kelly, for nearly 30 years and raised two wonderful children. His passion is building common ground among people who love nature and people who love God, in a time when both are at risk.

## What We Thought About Radical Sabbatical



At The Cloisters last spring are, at left - l. to r.: David Williams, Nelson North, and Paul Gojkovich; above: our Cloisters docent.

Thanks to all who returned the feedback survey on Radical Sabbatical both in paper form and via online. You all were great in giving us your honest opinions and building out some good ideas. Here's what we heard.

### The activities with the most participation:

- ◆ High Worship
- ◆ Jazz Mass
- ◆ Celtic Mass
- ◆ Dramatic Sermons
- ◆ Mid East Forums
- ◆ Lenten Prayer Study
- ◆ Holy Heavens Observatory trip

### What got rave reviews?

- ◇ Lenten Prayer Study Group
- ◇ Trip to the Icon museum
- ◇ Trip to St John the Divine & The Cloisters
- ◇ MidEast Forums

### These were the most “out there” and drew polarizing reviews:

- ◆ High Worship
- ◆ Jazz Mass
- ◆ Dramatic Sermons

There was a strong consensus around **getting “off campus”** more and becoming more deeply

rooted in **community and service** as we build future programs and activities.

### Why people keep coming back to Trinity:

- ◇ Music is integral to worship and connecting to God
- ◇ The leadership and quality of preaching of our Clergy is strong
- ◇ This Parish is our Family and many feel a strong sense of belonging

And we **learned some things about ourselves and each other** along the way. Here are a few choice quotes which sum up the variety of responses:

- ◆ *I am challenged at Trinity – intellectually and spiritually*
- ◆ *We are open to challenge, exploration and honest debate*
- ◆ *I know I'm valued at Trinity*
- ◆ *I can be open to new experiences even if I don't agree or enjoy every aspect of the venture.*

Radical Sabbatical was a great time of renewal and challenge – we have terrific momentum as we start the new Church year and enter into the season of stewardship.

*Compiled and submitted by  
Phyllis Schneble, Peoples' Warden*

## Music

### Upcoming Liturgical and Musical Highlights

***October 9, 10 AM—St. Francis Service and Blessing of the Animals***

Celebrating all of God's creation, this unique liturgy provides an opportunity to bless our animal companions as we join with their voices in spirited praise.

***October 30, 10 AM—Reformation Sunday/Celebration of 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the King James Bible***

As we mark the historic significance of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, our music will highlight and celebrate the influence of the King James Bible during this anniversary year.

***November 6, 5:30 PM—Choral Requiem Mass for the Feast of All Saints***

Our yearly remembrance of all the faithful departed as celebrated through Choral Eucharist and the music of Gabriel Fauré.

***December 11, 10 AM—Lessons and Carols***

This year we incorporate the beloved tradition of Lessons and Carols into the context of morning worship. The music and readings move us from the Garden of Eden to St. John's crying in the wilderness to the promised coming of our Savior Jesus Christ as a child.

For more information about these liturgical events or participation in Trinity's Choirs, please contact Interim Director of Music, Brandon Beachamp at [music@trinitysouthport.org](mailto:music@trinitysouthport.org) or 203.255.0454 x308



### Update on the Music Director Search

The Music Director Search Committee, which has been meeting since the summer, has begun its selection process in the search for a new Organist and Music Director for Trinity Church.

Although we are still accepting applications, we reviewed resumes received as of September 12 and selected nine candidates to interview. On Wednesday, September 28, we met to plan our interview strategy and review five additional applications that were received in the last two weeks. At that meeting our work focused on preparing interview questions so that each one of the applicants will be interviewed and measured using the same yardstick. Also to be discussed is the interview plan, including the assignment of two-member teams who will conduct the first round of interviews. We hope to be able to use Skype to conduct video interviews. The overwhelming majority of applicants have websites

and/or performances on youtube which have been a useful complement to this process. Perusing the sites and listening to performances has made the process much more three-dimensional than it would otherwise have been.

Once all interviews have been conducted (most likely by November 15) and reports shared with members, the committee will identify a shorter list of candidates to pursue, and then schedule visits to their churches if they are not too distant from our area. We are heartened by the depth of talent in the pool and look forward to presenting a Short List of finalists to Nicholas in the coming months.

~ Nancy Edmiston,  
Music Director Search Committee

## Upcoming Events

# Honduras Celebration Commemorating 11 Years of Service

Saturday, November 12, 2011

6 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Cocktails and Appetizers  
7 p.m. - Honduran Dinner

7:45 - Honoring our Guest  
The Reverend Barbara Boghetich  
from Honduras

&  
Auction of "Need" and Traditional Items

\$25 Per Person  
B.Y.O. Beer/Wine  
(Additional refreshments will be provided)  
Trinity Parish Hall

RSVP by November 7, 2011  
administrator@trinitysouthport.org

*Proceeds to fund Trinity's 2013 service project and Honduran Scholarship Students.*

**Buy a Table for You and Your Friends for \$200!  
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!**

Send checks for dinner with "Honduras" in memo line to:  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 400, Southport, CT 06890

### RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

Join us for the Honduras Celebration that commemorates 11 years of service by Trinity parishioners. ALL are welcome at this fiesta! Cocktails, Honduran dinner from *Delicias del Norte*, and reception for The Rev. Barbara Boghetich in the Parish Hall, plus a slide show of past trips and service projects.

\$25 per person benefits the Honduras Scholarship Fund, plus our next service project in 2013. Send checks to Trinity Episcopal Church, Attn: Melanie, with "Honduras" in the memo line.

RSVP [admin@trinitysouthport.org](mailto:admin@trinitysouthport.org)

### HONDURAN COFFEE ON SALE

Pick up a bag of Honduran coffee in the parish hall—grown and roasted right in our sister town of Copan! Both ground and whole bean—\$15 per bag.

*Proceeds support Trinity's  
Honduras Scholarship Fund.*

## Upcoming Events

### John Taylor Arms

John Taylor Arms was born in Washington DC in 1887, and after graduating from MIT he began his career as an architect with a firm in New York in 1912, and then as a partner with noted Fairfield architect Cameron Clark. After serving in the US Navy in WWI, the gift of an etching set, given to him by his wife, and a fascination with the architectural etchings and lithographs of the French artists, lured him into print-making. He turned to two artists, Bolton Brown and Eugene Higgins, for advice and instruction. He became so accomplished that in time he was awarded the French Legion of Honour in recognition of his series of etchings of French churches, done as illustrations for his wife's book, *Churches of France*. One of his early efforts was the design of the lettering for the seal of the Fairfield Garden Club, while Mrs. Ethel Everett, a member of both the Garden Club and Trinity Church, did the drawing in its center. He also etched bookplates for his friends, including one for Virginia B. Perry.

He married Dorothy Noyes from Brooklyn, NY, and they preceded her sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Spelman, to Fairfield and they all became members of Trinity Church in the early 1920's. Cameron Clark remodeled an 1850 house for them on Old Academy Road on Greenfield Hill, and designed a studio for Arms that after his death was moved around the corner onto Hillside Road; both still stand today. Dorothy would read aloud to him as he worked on his plates and stones, sharing the time together.

In his book about Arms, (*John Taylor Arms, A Man For All Time, The Artist and His Work*, Eastern Press, East Haven Ct, 1982) the Rev. William Dolan Fletcher reflects that "the foremost characteristic of Arms was his sense of humanity, his sensitivity to his fellow man, his commitment to others first, self last." Fletcher continues to remember, "by nature he was an affable man, friendly, outgoing, positive in his

understanding of and approach to people. Devotion and loyalty were the touchstones of his personality."

Arms loved reading stories aloud, and Fletcher writes, "I once asked him what he considered his greatest achievement, his prize accomplishment. Without a moment's hesitation he said it was the privilege of being a lay reader of God's Word at Trinity Church in Southport, Connecticut. Everything else was quite secondary. His sense of the spiritual, his awareness of God's presence made this paramount, and such became the key to the understanding of beauty wherever he found it. He chuckled and added that if gifts were his in talent, ability, technique, they were such because he sensed his personal sharing in divine creativity."

John Taylor Arms also had a studio and home in North Pomfret, Vermont, where he spent the last summer of his life in 1953. He had been diagnosed with cancer of the spine, and returned to his home in Fairfield in September of that year and died in New York in October.

The etchings that have been donated to Trinity by David Kountze Sturges in memory of Muriel and Fuller Leeds and their daughter, Ellen Leeds Sturges, were personal gifts to the Leeds from Arms. He had given many of his prints to friends and family as gifts during his lifetime. For many years his daughter in law, Mary Jane Arms, a long-time Trinity parishioner, would donate one to the Silent Auction of the Merrie Faire, an annual holiday event, so there are many fortunate parishioners and their heirs who are also owners of his etchings.

*The two etchings given by Mr. Sturges include "The Rose, Beauvais," French Church Series #3, 1925 and "Gerona," Spanish Church Series #5, 1925.*

*They will be dedicated and hung on October 30, 2011, at 9:15 AM in the Parish Library. A reception will follow. All are welcome.*

## Art & Soul

### ART & SOUL LECTURES to be held in Trinity Parish Hall



**Wednesday, October 12**                      **7 PM**

*“The King James Bible and Its Influence upon Music through the Centuries.”*

Brandon Beachamp, Trinity Church Interim Music Director.

**Thursday, November 3**                      **6 PM**

*“The King James Bible in the Context of the Reformation.”*

Dr. Bruce Gordon, Acting Chair, Yale Divinity School History Department and Renaissance Studies Program. Dr. Gordon is a Reformation scholar and the author of *Calvin* (Yale University Press, 2009); he has written much on the Reformation and is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Prior to coming to New Haven, Dr. Gordon taught from 1994 – 2008 at the University of St Andrews Scotland.

## Art & Soul - FIELD TRIPS

Please direct questions and/or reservation requests to Sheila Traub: sheilastraub@optonline.net; 203 661-0054. *Reservations are required for each trip.*

**Saturday, October 8**                      **8:15 AM – 3 PM**                      **Kykuit and Union Church of Pocantico Hills**

Grand Tour of Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate, including the 2nd floor balcony, renowned for its views and important paintings from Nelson Rockefeller’s collection, otherwise unavailable to the public. After a box lunch, we will visit the Union Church of Pocantico Hills, home of Marc Chagall’s stained glass windows and Pierre Matisse rose window. *Cost:* \$60 for both tours and a box lunch. Times reflect car departure from and to Trinity Church lot. Please book promptly: group size is limited!

**Friday, November 4**                      **6 – 9:00 PM**                      **The Morgan Library**

A Rumi Night of Music and Poetry – Visit to the galleries and concert. *Cost:* \$20; tickets bought through Trinity may be eligible for a special price.

**Thursday, January 12**                      **3 PM**                      **The Morgan Library**

PRIVATE Conversation with Dr. Sheelagh Bevan and exclusive viewing of The King James Bible and rarely seen Bibles and Manuscripts, Printed Books, and Bindings. *Cost:* \$20.

**Friday, February 3**                      **6 – 6:45 PM**                      **The Morgan Library: “Charles Dickens at 200”**

A special tour of the exhibition just for Trinity Southport parishioners led by Dr. Susy Whitcomb of Trinity Parish, a Morgan docent and Trinity Southport parishioner. The exhibition encompasses manuscripts of Charles Dickens’ novels, stories, letters, photographs, caricatures and more, in celebration of the bicentennial of Charles Dickens, “Britain’s true first literary superstar,” whose work remains widely read, and widely presented on stage and screen.

## Parish Doings

### Our New Adult Education Chairwoman

On Sunday, September 18, Parishioner Sheila Traub graciously agreed to coordinate the adult education programs at Trinity Church. For much of the past year, she has been the mastermind behind our dynamic **Art & Soul** programs and field trips.



Her enthusiasm for learning and careful planning will be a blessing for our entire parish and the wider community. Sheila is arranging for outings and lectures for the autumn and winter (*see page 8*). Please read this edition of the Spire and check the website for more details. Sheila hopes to expand the committee and its programs, so please contact her at [sheilas-traub@optonline.net](mailto:sheilas-traub@optonline.net) or 203-661-0054 if you would like to volunteer to help.

### Trinity Church Room Usage

**It is vitally important to contact Melanie Andrews well-enough in advance of any meeting, party, gathering, recital, concert or kitchen use**—be it baking brownies for a small meeting or making a soup-kitchen dinner for dozens!

Trinity has benefitted more and more from the rental charges for rooms used by outside groups. That's the Good News. The Bad News is that rooms may not be available for last minute Trinity Church meetings, or the kitchen may not be usable when a Yoga group or some reception is taking place in the Parish Hall. So PLEASE....call ahead and get your group on the calendar in enough time! Melanie coordinates room usage. She is in the office every week day *except Thursday* from 9 AM till 1:00 PM. 203-255-0454, ext. 304; [finance@trinitysouthport.org](mailto:finance@trinitysouthport.org)

*"May the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."* These words appeared 400 years ago when the King James Bible was first published. This fall, as a part of our Art & Soul programming, we will examine how this most beautiful Bible came about -- its spiritual grace, poetry, and power -- and its influence on music we love.

### Foyer Group Cocktail Party on 10/15

Back by popular demand, the Foyer Groups will once again start a new season. Sign up for a dinner group and bring a portion of the meal. Groups are usually about 8-10 people. It's a great way to get to know parishioners, both young and old, for fellowship and friendship.

**Come join us on Saturday, October 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a cocktail party at the Rectory.**

Bring your favorite beverage and something to share. Don't forget your calendars to set your dates and meet your new group! For more information, contact Eileen Weber at 203-259-6386 or Deb Valentin at 203-292-3785.

To sign up: [trinitysouthport@yahoo.com](mailto:trinitysouthport@yahoo.com)

See you all then!

### Last Chance CPR Training, October 18th!

The last training session to be given here this year on this life-saving skill will be on **Tuesday, October 18th at 7 PM in Trinity Parish Hall.**

If you would like to learn how to handle medical emergencies and make a real difference, please contact Whit Biggs to sign up:

203-563-9308, or [whitbiggs@optonline.net](mailto:whitbiggs@optonline.net).

## Parish Doings

### Thank You, Ken!

We want to extend heartfelt thanks to Parishioner Ken Wilson for his 21 years of volunteer work in the church office.



His dedication and commitment over those many years speaks to his deep faith and desire to serve his church. There were times when he volunteered up to three times a week and he could always be counted on to be at his desk when the office opened at 9 AM.

Most recently, he manned the desk on Tuesday mornings while the staff had its weekly meeting. He was also the one who made reminder calls to those who were scheduled to serve in worship services as liturgical assistants, ushers, and acolytes. They will all miss Ken's beautiful, unhurried bass voice on their voicemail!



*Ken Wilson greets former Parish Administrator, Anne Harper, with whom he worked for many years, at a Trinity function in our Parish Hall last winter.*

**Office Volunteer Meeting in the Reception Office  
10 AM on Thursday, October 6.**  
If you are interested in joining us, are intrigued or have questions, please come!

### TRINITY BOOK GROUP, 2011-2012

**“The Spirit of the American Experience”**

**6:30 PM to 8 PM in the Parish Library**

**Come at 6 PM with a brown-bag dinner—Book discussion begins promptly at 6:30 PM.**

This year we will continue to meet American authors and poets whose writings reflect the nature of their personal experiences, various environments, and ever-changing personal and national conflicts at different points in our nation's history.

Readings scheduled for the rest of the program year:

**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE  
FOR OCTOBER!**

**Oct. 12** – Edgar Allan Poe, *“The Cask of Amontillado,” “The Raven,”* and *“The Bells”*

**Nov. 2** – Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Sojourner Truth, *“Aint I a Woman”*

**Dec. 7** – O. Henry, *“The Gift of the Magi”*

**Jan. 4** – Walt Whitman, *“Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night”* and *“When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd”*

**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*

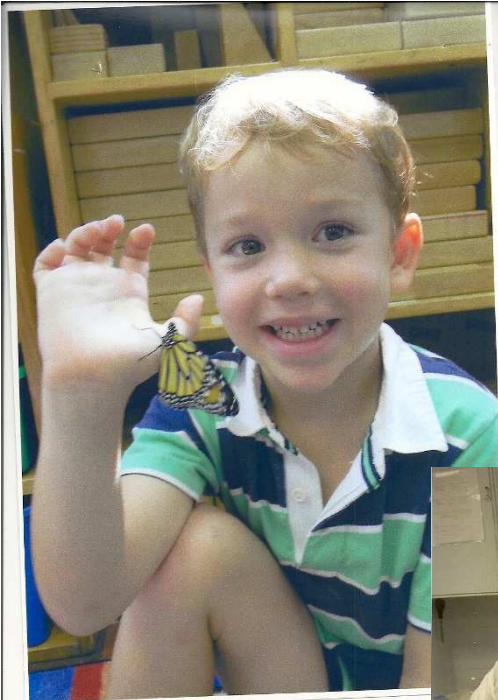
**May 2** – William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

**June 6** – John Updike, *Rabbit, Run*

### Eastertide Pilgrimage in 2012

Father Nicholas and Dorothy are considering two pilgrimages next spring. One is the classic journey to Jerusalem and the Holy Land in late April, and the other is a more unusual adventure to forgotten Greek, Armenian, Assyrian and Syrian Orthodox churches of eastern Turkey in late May. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Fr. Nicholas at [nporter@trinitysouthport.org](mailto:nporter@trinitysouthport.org). Friends and family are always welcome to come along!

# Trinity Parish Nursery School



**!Remember!  
these dates:**

**Tuesday, October 4  
Back to School Night  
7:00 PM**



**NO SCHOOL  
on these days:**

**Tuesday, November 8  
Staff Professional  
Development Day**

**Friday, November 11  
Veteran's Day**



**Thursday-Monday  
December 1-5  
TPNS Book Fair!**

*TPNS students get off to a great start this fall, studying Monarch butterflies, doing experiments in Miss Marcy's class, and running and playing in the updated and more spacious playground!*





**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*

Brandon Beachamp, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Meg Reilly, *Nursery School Director*

Melanie Andrews, *Financial Officer*

Cassia Ward, *Spire Editor, Communications*

Ed Michaels, *Photography Consultant*

Russ Preisick, *Sexton*

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday — Friday  
9:00 AM — 4:00 PM

**Blessing of the Animals**  
**A Celebration of St. Francis**

**Sunday,  
October  
9**



**10 AM  
Blessing  
Service**

**Meet 9 AM on the lawn for doughnuts, coffee, & cider  
with "Treats" for our special guests!**

*Bring your leashed, caged or photographed pets to be  
admired before and blessed at the service.  
Children may bring their favorite stuffed animal or a  
drawing of their pet for a special blessing.*