

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
and  
**Trinity Parish Nursery School**

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**DECEMBER 2011**  
~ **JANUARY 2012**



**The Rector's View**

Dear Friends,

Advent leads us into the world-famous story of Christ Jesus' Nativity in Bethlehem. Its characters and setting adorn lawns, street-corners, museum walls, greeting cards and stained glass windows. Our favorite version is a popular blending of both St. Luke's and St. Matthew's Gospel accounts together with a few features of ancient Christian tradition.

But the Divine Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us in Christ Jesus is more than a world-famous story; it is a world-changing story. Because of its truth, because of its effects, this story and its hero, Jesus, are *the* story of western civilization. With little more than innocence, prayer and faith in his Father's promises, Jesus has changed the world and shaped lives. He asks us to do the same through simple acts of kindness, charity and love.

May God bless you and your loved ones richly with health, joy and peace as we celebrate once again the coming of the True Light, Christ Jesus, into the world.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family for celebratory worship during this Christmas season. And do bring friends because Christ Jesus is the new birth, new life, and new future of all humanity, and he is the joy of Christmas.

*The Rev. Nicholas T. Porter +  
Rector of Trinity Church*



**Don't miss out! Find schedules for  
Worship, Events, and the Christmas Pageant  
Rehearsals inside, plus much, much more!**



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## Advent and Christmas Worship and Events Schedule

Sunday, November 27: Advent I	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I Instructed Morning Prayer, Rite I, with Choir
Sunday, December 4: Advent II	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite I, with Choir Coffee Hour, Wreath-Making, St. Nicholas Visit and Holiday Book Sale
Sunday, December 11: Advent III	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I Lessons & Carols, with Choir Coffee Hour
Sunday, December 18: Advent IV	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite I, with Choir Coffee Hour Christmas Pageant Family Reception in Parish Hall
Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve	2:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM 10:30 PM 11:00 PM	Carols Children's Service Carols and Christmas Music Family Festal Eucharist, with Choir Christmas Concert Midnight Mass, with Choir
Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day	11:00 AM 12 Noon	Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Carols A Christmas Toast
Sunday, January 1, 2012: New Year's /Holy Name Day	11:00 AM 12 Noon	Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Carols A New Year's Toast

### The Meaning and Markings of Advent

Advent is the four-week season that precedes the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. This year, it begins on Sunday, November 27 and ends on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24. The season's name "Advent" comes from Latin and means "The Coming" of the King.

Early on, Advent acquired a double focus – both the Christ Child's birth and Christ Jesus' Second Coming. This *double entendre* of meaning is reflected in the Sunday readings, which include passages about Judgment Day and the Nativity of the Messiah.

In the Medieval ages, Advent was a season of spiritual preparation marked by fasting and special acts of personal discipline and mercy. It was considered a "Little Lent" (and still is in the Eastern Orthodox Churches). Today, the penitential character has gradually given way to one of expectation, but the memory of the former times is kept by use of the color purple, no "fancy" flowers on the altar, and use of the solemn language of Rite I liturgies during worship.

## Curate on the Courtyard

### Advent Absentee

by Sylvia Sands

Here I go again,  
carefully unpacking the figures of the crib,  
tenderly wiping dust from Mary's eyes  
and Joseph's beard,  
all the while practicing my contemplative skills.  
Here I am,  
duster in hand  
seeking to emulate  
the shepherd's enthusiasm and openness,  
(wipe, wipe)  
the wise men's courage and generosity,  
(dust, dust)  
Mary's mysticism,  
Joseph's humility,  
the Christ Child's vulnerability.  
Who am I kidding?  
It is the absent figure that haunts me.  
I stand shoulder to shoulder  
in grim, callous, irritable solidarity  
with that wretched innkeeper.  
No room, no time, no way.  
Nobody ever dared carve him in wood  
and include him in the Christmas crib,  
Have they?

~~~~~

Oh, "that wretched innkeeper." He is always portrayed as the bad guy who told Mary and Joseph there was no room at the inn so that they end up in the barn with the livestock and their newborn in the manger.

I have a soft spot in my heart for the innkeeper, who was probably just trying to run a good business and keep his paying customers happy. I doubt he would have had any takers, even if he had asked if anyone would share their room with a man and a woman who was about to go into labor.

In the midst of the angst and craziness of the holiday season, "that wretched innkeeper" and his role in the Nativity story remind me that, regardless of my responsibilities, preoccupations, and

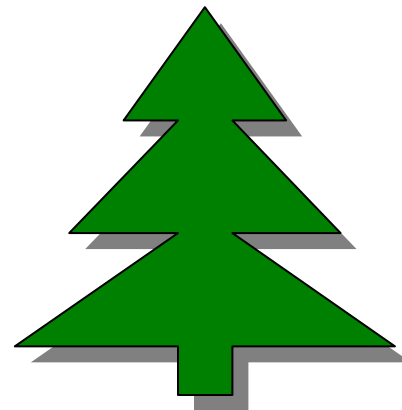
uneven management of the demands on me, there is nothing that prevents or stands in the way of the One whose incarnate love comes to me through the Christ Child. Year after year, no matter what I've done or left undone, I am assured that nothing can separate me from the love of God.

Once again, Jesus comes. And it doesn't matter that I've overextended myself, set unattainable expectations and planned the best Christmas yet. None of that matters. None of that is the point of Christmas.

The point is that Christ is here to offer us, as St. Augustine wrote, ". . . endless days of eternity in our own short span of time."

O come let us adore him.

~ Mother Dawn+



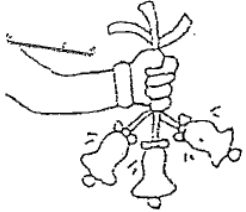
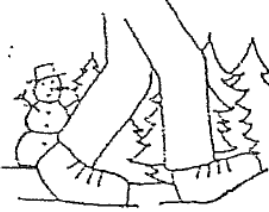
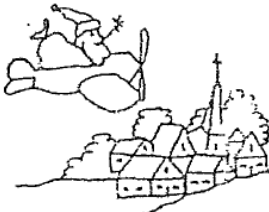

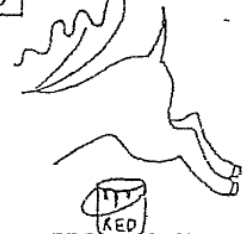


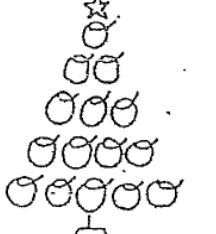


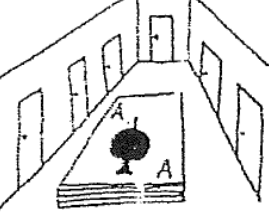
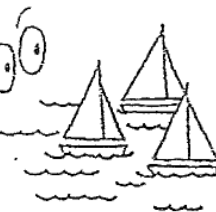

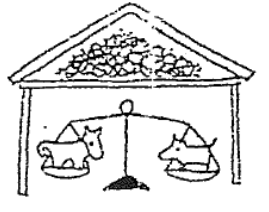
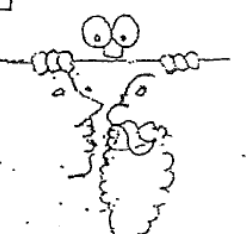
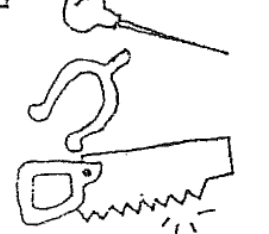
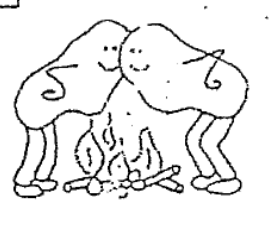
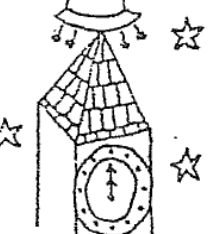
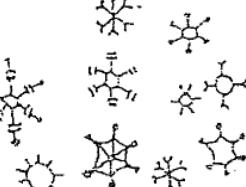



### Tree of Light

Thursday, December 8, at 6 PM will be the annual community ceremony for the Tree of Light in Southport. We will gather at JPMorgan Chase Bank, 292 Pequot Avenue.

Sponsored by VNS Hospice at Home, this event honors loved ones who are no longer with us. Mother Dawn will do this year's Invocation and Parishioner Stephen Stout will read the Tree of Light Memorial Roll.

# Christmas Music Puzzle-Quiz

Name That Tune—24 Christmas Carols—(Answers on page 14!)

| <p>1</p>     | <p>2</p>     | <p>3</p>     | <p>4</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
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| <p>5</p>     | <p>6</p>     | <p>7</p>     | <p>8</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
| <p>9</p>    | <p>10</p>   | <p>11</p>   | <p>12</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |          |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
| <p>13</p>  | <p>14</p> <p>ABCDE<br/>FGHIJKM<br/>NOPQRS<br/>TUVWXY<br/>Z</p>                                | <p>15</p>  | <p>16</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">DECEMBER</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>25</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>7</td> <td>25</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>25</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>25</td> <td>15</td> <td>25</td> <td>17</td> <td>25</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>21</td> <td>25</td> <td>23</td> <td>25</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>25</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | DECEMBER |    |    |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 25 | 4 | 5 |  | 25 | 7 | 25 | 9 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 13 | 25 | 15 | 25 | 17 | 25 | 19 | 25 | 21 | 25 | 23 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 31 |  |  |
| DECEMBER                                                                                      |                                                                                               |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |          |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
|                                                                                               | 1                                                                                             | 2                                                                                              | 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 4        | 5  |    |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
| 25                                                                                            | 7                                                                                             | 25                                                                                             | 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 10       | 25 | 12 |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
| 13                                                                                            | 25                                                                                            | 15                                                                                             | 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 17       | 25 | 19 |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
| 25                                                                                            | 21                                                                                            | 25                                                                                             | 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25       | 25 | 26 |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
| 27                                                                                            | 28                                                                                            | 29                                                                                             | 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 31       |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
| <p>17</p>  | <p>18</p>  | <p>19</p>  | <p>20</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |          |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |
| <p>21</p>  | <p>22</p>  | <p>23</p>  | <p>24</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |          |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |    |   |   |  |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |

## Music

### The 87th Annual Trinity Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 18, 4:00 PM!

Three musical rehearsals and three staging rehearsals lead us to a final run-through and performance on the 18<sup>th</sup>. All of our young people are invited to participate in this beloved traditional Christmas celebration, a seasonal highlight both for our parish family and the neighboring community.

### 2011 Pageant Schedule

|                                                                                          |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Wed., November 30</b>                                                                 | <b>Rehearsal</b>                   |
| <i>Drop off and pick up in 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Choir Room</i>                           |                                    |
| 4-4:45 PM                                                                                | Grades K-3                         |
| 5-5:45 PM                                                                                | Grades 4 and up                    |
| <b>Wed., December 7</b>                                                                  | <b>Rehearsal</b>                   |
| <i>Drop off and pick up in 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Choir Room</i>                           |                                    |
| 4-4:45 PM                                                                                | Grades K-3                         |
| 5-5:45 PM                                                                                | Grades 4 and up                    |
| <b>Wed., December 14</b>                                                                 | <b>Rehearsal</b>                   |
| <i>Drop off and pick up in 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Choir Room</i>                           |                                    |
| 4-4:45 PM                                                                                | Grades K-3                         |
| 5-5:45 PM                                                                                | Grades 4 and up                    |
| <b>Thurs., December 15</b>                                                               | <b>Rehearsal</b>                   |
| <i>Drop off in choir loft - Pick up in church</i>                                        |                                    |
| 4-5:30 PM                                                                                | Full Cast                          |
| <b>Fri., December 16</b>                                                                 | <b>Rehearsal</b>                   |
| <i>Drop off in choir loft - Pick up in church</i>                                        |                                    |
| 4-5:30 PM                                                                                | Full Cast                          |
| <b>Sat., December 17</b>                                                                 | <b>Staging and Full Rehearsal</b>  |
| <i>Drop off and pick up in church</i>                                                    |                                    |
| 9 AM-12:15 PM                                                                            | Principal Roles only               |
| 10 AM-12:15 PM                                                                           | Full Cast                          |
| <i>Please wash/press costumes as necessary and bring to rehearsal, marked on hanger.</i> |                                    |
| <b>Sun., December 18</b>                                                                 | <b>Dress Rehearsal and Pageant</b> |
| <i>Drop off in church</i>                                                                |                                    |
| 2 PM                                                                                     | Full Cast Dress Rehearsal          |
| 4 PM                                                                                     | Pageant and Reception              |

Many thanks and all best wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas!

All are welcome to audition for principal roles, **BUT**, due to the concentrated rehearsal period, **100% attendance is required!** Please find the pageant schedule below left.

To register for the pageant, send an e-mail (see below) with:

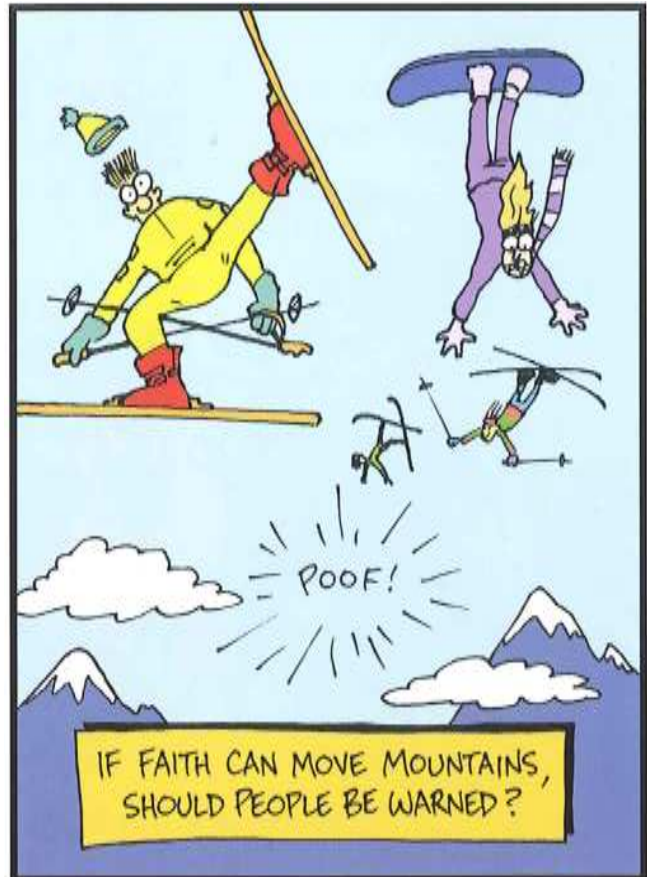
Child's Name  
Current Grade Level  
Parent's/Guardian's Name(s)  
E-mail address (*even though it is contained in the e-mail*)  
Emergency Phone Contact Information

Feel free to communicate with us:

**Directors:** Margaret Rieck and Kendall Crolius  
**Music Director:** Brandon Beachamp

All at: [trinitypageant@gmail.com](mailto:trinitypageant@gmail.com)

You *may* also call Mr. Beachamp at 203 255-0454 x308 (please note e-mail is preferred!)



## Good Stewards

### GROWING OAKS FROM ACORNS

“It’s not all yours!” That’s an unsettling Gospel assessment when it comes to whatever monies you and your family have and what you earn these days. Sharing liquid and investment resources hasn’t been a frequent impulse with the “me” generation, who are now learning more in this current recession about the heavy side of life, a side that our parents and grandparents knew only too well in the Depression of the 1930s.

With our church’s present needs, however, we all have to pitch in and we all have to start somewhere. And the timing is never convenient. Contrary to media social perception, not all endowments, even in the Episcopal Church, are built and maintained alone by “Granny Gotrocks” and the senior “establishment” members among us. It is now a congregation-wide necessity for young and old, of all levels and means, especially at Trinity with its three-way budget pull between high-maintenance historic

buildings, its expanding goals of mission, and the ever-rising costs of worship and ministry.

Like taxes and death, another inexorable spike will always be there jabbing at our well-being and, as well, the coping message that the Gospel provides. Somewhat euphemistically, it’s known as “stewardship.” Reinforcing lessons and sermons put it across each year, but the response asked for is our obligation.

Building legacies of faith from modest means can happen if we all do it collectively, following the observation of late U.S. Senator, Everett Dirksen: “... with pennies now, then nickels and dimes needed, it soon adds up to real money.” Unlike other situations we face, time, here, is on our side if we start and budget accordingly. Also, we have an appealing choice of church program dedication to go with it. The only other judgment needed is that the perpetuation of our Parish faith is just as vital to the community as are the educational and recreational programs for kids and health-related causes we resonate to,

*Continued on page 7*

### TRINITY NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Sunday, December 11, 3 to 5pm, Trinity is staging an Old-fashioned Christmas Caroling Walk! Families will gather outside of the Parish Hall for a 3pm (sharp!) departure—PLEASE arrive a few minutes early!

We will fan out in the neighborhoods around the church and Southport Village to spread the Good Word about the birth of Jesus with song. All are welcome! Song sheets will be distributed to carolers. This is a chance to get to know our neighbors better—we will pass out schedules of Trinity Christmas Week services to the homes where we stop, and invite our neighbors to join us.

Please bring a spare flashlight and/or electric candles for when it begins to get dark, and wear your best Santa hats! Some jingle bells will be available to carry on the journey, but if you have extras please bring them. Upon our return at 5pm, Sharon Turlis is arranging with the Youth Group to provide cookies & hot chocolate in the Parish Hall to all carolers!

Please RSVP to John Morgan, 203 526-7046, [johnhmorgan@johnhmorgan.com](mailto:johnhmorgan@johnhmorgan.com) so that we can get an estimate of the number of carolers to expect.

## Good Stewards

*Continued from page 6*

with their walks and road races, T-shirts and prizes and internet promotion.

Starting this kind of legacy involves, first, a quieter, more individual approach. The first step is to create the investment “seed money” principal, as you would saving for childrens’ tuition, retirement 401K, or other family aims. Begin with a budget amount each month, quarter or year, as the wallet can sustain. Usually, once a ten- or twelve-thousand-worth of principal is reached, it’s enough for the Parish Treasurer and Vestry to begin investing for enough income return to be applied toward the particular program or over all mission you wish to support in its yearly budget.

A prudent step is to execute an agreement with the Parish as to how the principal is to be preserved with growth in mind. Even its beginning income can be proportionately split, with enough reserved for matched growth and the rest to be applied. This restriction prevents general “raiding” of principal to meet yearly budget shortfalls. This happens even in the best of well-managed church financial behavior. This requirement helps maintain what you kick in while you catch up if you fall behind in payments. Likewise, this happens in even the best of intentional behavior.

Treated this way, the fledgling legacy resource can grow a lot in a lifetime toward the final building step to be arranged after you die. Per your will and testament, you can easily include a final cash assignment by your estate or, better yet, a transfer of a few shares of a good value stock or security with which the Parish Treasurer can perpetuate the support you started, according to the legacy terms you want.



On a personal note, my little Sturges-Lack Memorial Fund arrangement, which I started from nothing for the Parish in 2009, is now past three thousand in principal accrual. Named for my late mother and stepfather, longtime communicants of Trinity, it’s coming along and astonishing me further with Dirksen’s wisdom. Trust this aging church mouse . . . it works!

A lasting, pluralistic support of our faith, let’s say, will go a long way in slowly easing the Parish burdens. Depending on response, it can sooner lead to the creation of the three endowments we need for Trinity’s financial health and growth into this century. Something to consider, we urge, around the kitchen table.

*~ David Sturges*



**An INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY!!!!**

BUY A BEAUTIFUL OIL PAINTING . . .  
DONATE TO TRINITY’S MISSION AND  
OUTREACH COMMITTEE.

DOROTHY NESSEL (DAVID NESSEL’S  
MOTHER) IS A RECOGNIZED ARTIST.  
SHE HAS DONATED A FEW OF HER PAINT-  
INGS TO TRINITY WITH THE INTENTION  
THAT ***THE SALE PRICE WOULD BE DONATED  
DIRECTLY TO TRINITY’S MISSION AND OUT-  
REACH COMMITTEE.***

THE PAINTINGS WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN  
THE PARISH HALL ( ON THE STAGE) FOR  
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. DO SOME CHRIS-  
T-MAS SHOPPING. . . BE A TRINITY “SECRET  
SANTA”. . . . BUY A GIFT AND SUPPORT OUR  
MISSIONS.

## Honduras Fiesta - Benefit 2011



**We scurried to find every folding chair in the church when setting up for our Saturday, November 12th Honduras Fiesta!**

**All chairs were needed for the 120 parishioners and friends who came out to support Trinity's Mission and Outreach efforts in Honduras.**

**And a true fiesta it was! With authentic, fabulous Latin food, a parish hall transformed into an exuberant, colorful, and warm Latin room, and the outstanding live music of Geoff Birt's band.**

We met all our goals, and more, at the event! We honored the Reverend Barbara Boghetich, visiting priest from our sister church, San Lucas, in Delicias del Norte, Honduras; we celebrated Trinity's 11 years of service in Honduras—nine mission trips and 96 Trinity travelers; we connected folks to what we actually do—33 people purchased need-pledge items for scholarship; and we came together for a multi-generational fun-filled evening; plus, we topped our financial goals (final total figures not yet available, \$13,693 received by press time)!

Thanks most especially to:  
our Cooks—Ethel and Ray Morales & Lidia  
and BLK Trio—Geoff Birt, Paul Lawrence & Jurgen Kern.



## Honduras Fiesta - Benefit 2011



Also, thanks to our many helpers:

Judy & Ched Proctor; Jill & Carl Walker; Phyllis & Olivia Schneble; Nancy & Elizabeth MacPherson; Margaret & Lucy Rieck; Mary & Erin Cody; Steve & Sydney Van Fleet; Andrea & Bahman Azarm; Cindy, John, & Rick Searight; Michael Banten; Bea Mesa Birt; David Nessel; Kendall Crolius; Nancy Smith; Bernie, Polly, & Addison Trueblood; Becky Stoddard, and our Sexton, Russ Preisick.

Thanks also to the many retailers and parishioners who donated items for our Chinese Raffle and for the event itself:

Accents Home Collection  
 Barbara Barbara  
 The Cigar Factory, Norwalk  
 Coreen's Bridge Floral Shop  
 Driftwood Coffee Shop  
 Frederica's Mercantile, Westfield  
 Trumbull Mall  
 Henri's Reserve and Ruthie Frantz  
 The Horseshoe  
 Kasson Jewelers of Southport  
 o lulla, Southport  
 Saugatuck Craft Butchery  
 Spic & Span Market  
 Vista Wine & Spirits  
 Michael and Colleen Banten  
 Mary Cody  
 Jean Moffitt  
 David and Judy Nessel  
 Dawn Stegelmann  
 Jill and Carl Walker

And finally—many thanks to the whole Trinity staff for their efforts and encouragement, and to all members of Trinity for their support and interest.



*Above: Judy Proctor (event co-chair), Rev. Boghetich, Andrea & Bahman Azarm, and Jill Walker (event co-chair).  
 Below: the Reverends Boghetich and Porter.*



## Parish Doings

### Art & Soul - FIELD TRIPS

**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.



### Report on the October 2011 Episcopal Diocese of CT Annual Convention

Last month the Annual Convention was held in Farmington, CT on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22. Trinity Church was well represented, with both Patty Ford and Steve Smith joining Fr. Nicholas and Mother Dawn for the two-day event.

Prior to the convention there were three preparatory meetings held throughout the Diocese to address the budget (Resolution #2). Patty, Steve, Nicholas+ and Dawn+ attended the Bridgeport meeting, giving input to what many thought would be the most contentious Resolution at the Convention. With so many churches in our Diocese (total of 171 parishes) having financial difficulty in the past two years, the budget for the Diocese of CT came under fire at this meeting, as many felt that the reduced budget should include a reduction in the Bishop’s Ministry as well.

Every other category of expense was cut by

over 10% to reflect tougher economic times, yet the Bishop’s ministry was not, and will actually increase. Connecticut is a relatively small diocese (contiguous with the state borders), but we have three Bishops, and the cost to support the Bishops office is \$993,000 of the total proposed budget diocese of CT of \$4,713,000 (21%).

The Convention was lively and well attended, with over 600 participants including lay delegates (voting and non-voting), clergy, our Bishops and administrators. The important work of voting on this year’s Resolutions was set for Saturday, while on both Friday and Saturday everyone participated in small group sessions to discover and discuss “God’s Mission.” We sat around tables of 10, being able to meet people from all over the state, listening and sharing our experiences of each other’s parishes’ attributes, challenges, and spiritual life.

Though we knew there were going to be some lively and heated discussions on Saturday, we were excited to be a part of the decision-making of our state *Continued on page 11*

## Parish Doings

*Continued from page 10*

church and local parishes. One of the most heated Resolutions was #1, which is requiring each parish to commit themselves to the 12.5% contribution of their budget to go to the diocese, otherwise, they would be penalized if these assessments averaged less than 10% over a 2 year period and eventually find themselves in a kind of receivership, resulting in a loss of autonomy and the Diocese directly managing their affairs.

The diocesan budget is largely formulated by these assessments (contributions), and with tough economic times, only around 70 churches are currently contributing at the 12.5% level. Another 40 or so churches contribute in the 10-12% range, and 60 are under 10% (**Trinity** is one of these churches). With overall church attendance continuing to slide over the past 30 years, the parishes in our state are finding it harder and harder just to keep their doors open—which therefore begs the question of this Resolution’s core—is it right to hold parishes’ contributions to 12.5% when many churches struggle to pay their bills.

Another Resolution that brought a flurry of debate was #6, which recommended that the Bishop authorize the clergy of Connecticut to officiate marriages of same sex couples. The Resolution passed, with much debate and concern about its ramifications for the Bishop, gay couples and the clergy.

All told, there were 13 Resolutions, all which passed except for one, which was postponed. To see a list of the Resolutions and their results, you can view them at this link: <http://www.ctepiscopal.org/News/newsView.asp?NewsId=40968100&NewsCategoryId=1>.

We also voted in nominees to three Diocesan positions that were up for election. By 4:00 PM on Saturday, we had finished business and were led in prayer and a final Hymn. We said our goodbyes to our new friends, and headed home on a glorious, sunny fall afternoon.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about our experiences, please do not hesitate to contact us for a more in-depth review of the Convention.

~ Steve Smith and Patty Ford  
Trinity Church Diocesan & Bridgeport  
Deanery Representatives



### 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 some light food to share—  
Book discussion begins promptly at 6:30 PM.**

This year we 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:

**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***

# Children's & Youth Programs

## Where in the Parish is Sharon Turlis?

On November 1, Sharon began as Director of Children's and Youth Ministry. It is a title more encompassing than the past title—Church School Director—as is the position.

Together with her newly-formed Educational Advisory Committee, Sharon hopes to develop a cohesively-structured program that will provide guidelines and benchmarks for learning and growth, from the moment a child enters Trinity Episcopal Church until they go off to college and beyond.

On Sunday mornings, Sharon can be found with the children, heading up our Church School program. When not in class on Sunday, she will also be involved with our Middle School-aged Youth Group meetings on Wednesday evenings.

Together with our Seminarian, Stephen Blackmer, Sharon enjoyed helping this group of young people participate in their first Youth Service on November 13, and look forward to helping them become more involved in the

service of God in and outside of the church, while having some fun building a community of Christian peers.

Sharon is also eager to learn more about the PCS—Post Confirmation Squad—our High School-age young parishioners, and their ideas on fulfilling their Confirmation commitment to serve our Lord.

One of the goals Sharon has is to focus on building multi-generational activities. As a firm believer in parents and extended families being an integral part of a child's spiritual development, she is excited about organizing events such as making Advent wreaths, Movie Night, Giving of your Heart for Valentine's Day, and Honoring of Caregivers at the Spring and Fall picnics.

Please stop by for a visit or contact her by phone or email if you have other ideas or suggestions. She would be delighted to support anyone who wishes to become more involved with the youth of our church.

Sharon Turlis Phone: 203.255.0454 Ext.302  
Email: [churchschool@trinitysouthport.org](mailto:churchschool@trinitysouthport.org)



### PRESENTATION IN THE PARISH HALL

Saturday, January 7, 2012 • 10AM-1PM

### MENTORING THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN

There will be a presentation for all members of the congregation interested in our new Church School program. We will be using a format known as Godly Play (a Montessori approach to religious education). Children have an innate understanding of who God is but need help in developing a language to express that understanding. This program of open-ended questions as they relate to sacred stories, parables, liturgical actions and contemplation encourages our children to develop a relationship with God, the Church and the Community.

Those interested in volunteering in the Church School are strongly encouraged to attend.

Please contact Sharon Turlis at 203.255.0454 Ext. 302 or email [churchschool@trinitysouthport.org](mailto:churchschool@trinitysouthport.org) with questions and to reserve your space.

Coffee and Refreshments will be served.



## Children's & Youth Programs



*The Gospel is read during the Youth Service at Trinity on November 13.*

### Four Keys to Building Faith

- ◆ Caring Conversation
- ◆ Family Devotions
- ◆ Rituals and Traditions
- ◆ Family Service

Helping your child to build his or her faith is often more about mirroring and patterning than telling.

- ◇ Watching you have a quiet, caring conversation with a friend or relative helps a child to learn caring.
- ◇ Taking time to say a blessing before meal time/bedtime, or saying “thank you” for their help, teaches them to be grateful for the gifts they receive.

Coming to church and taking time to explain what is happening during services as the seasons of the church change help them to experience a sense of stability in this constantly changing world.

- ◇ The colors blue or purple are always

used for Advent, red for Pentecost, and white for Easter.

- ◇ There are prayers in the prayer book that we follow in a certain order and hymns are inserted in regular places.

Family service outside of church teaches compassion and love for their neighbor.

- ◇ Holding a door open for someone
- ◇ Offering to shovel an elder's driveway
- ◇ Baking cookies for someone who lives alone
- ◇ going through unused clothes and toys to donate to shelter

All of these are simple first steps that can be built on as the child gets older.

Share with us your idea and practices of building faith with your child by emailing Sharon at:

[churchschool@trinitysouthport.org](mailto:churchschool@trinitysouthport.org)



*Youth Group members making a pie—cheerful cooperation before the RediWhip duel began!*

# Outreach

## In This Giving Season . . .

Please “heartfully” consider all of these opportunities for you and your family to participate in that wonderful feeling of helping your neighbor.

### TPNS Book Fair

Books will be available for purchase on Sunday, December 4 in the Parish Hall. Come shop for all the children on your Christmas list! And while you’re there, please consider buying one to give to a child in need—which will be combined with either a set of pajamas or a Hat and Mitten set . . . \*\*see details below.

### Hat and Mitten Tree

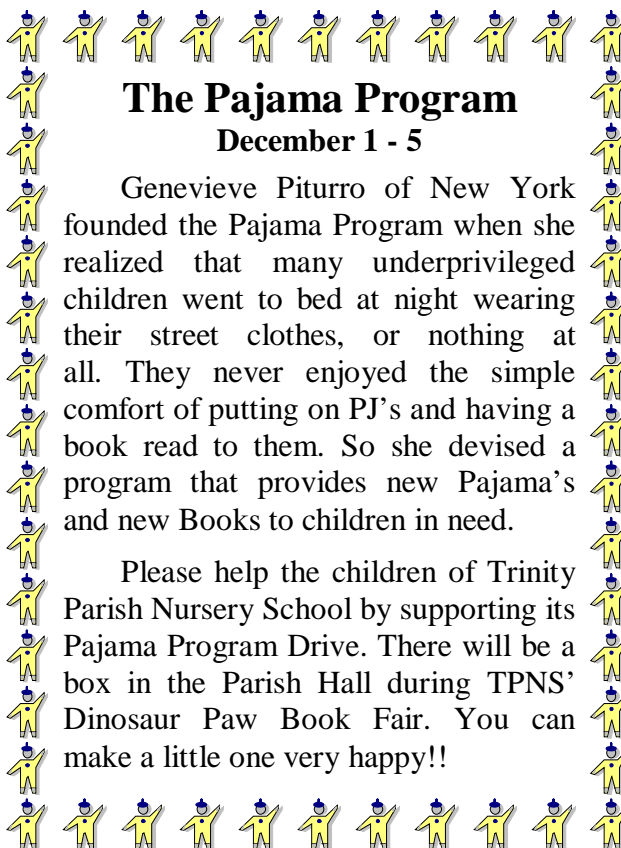
Our Youth group will be helping our Adopted Social Worker, thru Patty Ford, to collect hats and mittens for children in the Bridgeport area. See the Donation Tickets on the Christmas tree next to the Trinity room. \*\* Add a book from the TPNS book fair and we will supply a special wrapping and tag for your gift. We will be collecting hats, mittens, pajamas and books from December 4 thru Sunday December 18.

### “Souper Bowl” Collection

During the month of January, in conjunction with TPNS, Trinity will be collecting Cans of Food. Collection boxes will be in the Foyer inside the Red Doors. The food will be delivered to the food pantry.

*“Truly I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!”*

*Matthew 25: 40*



## The Pajama Program

**December 1 - 5**

Genevieve Piturro of New York founded the Pajama Program when she realized that many underprivileged children went to bed at night wearing their street clothes, or nothing at all. They never enjoyed the simple comfort of putting on PJ’s and having a book read to them. So she devised a program that provides new Pajama’s and new Books to children in need.

Please help the children of Trinity Parish Nursery School by supporting its Pajama Program Drive. There will be a box in the Parish Hall during TPNS’ Dinosaur Paw Book Fair. You can make a little one very happy!!

| Christmas Music Puzzle-Quiz |                                           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ANSWERS                     |                                           |
| 1.                          | Jingle Bells                              |
| 2.                          | Walking in a Winter Wonderland            |
| 3.                          | Santa’s Coming to Town                    |
| 4.                          | Joy to the World???                       |
| 5.                          | Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer            |
| 6.                          | O come All Ye Faithful                    |
| 7.                          | I’m dreaming of a white Christmas         |
| 8.                          | O, Christmas Tree                         |
| 9.                          | What Child is This??                      |
| 10.                         | We(e) Three Kings                         |
| 11.                         | Deck the Halls                            |
| 12.                         | I Saw Three Ships                         |
| 13.                         | O, Holy (K)night                          |
| 14.                         | No Ell                                    |
| 15.                         | A Weigh in a Manger                       |
| 16.                         | 12 Days of Christmas                      |
| 17.                         | I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus           |
| 18.                         | All I want For Xmas is My Two Front Teeth |
| 19.                         | Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire        |
| 20.                         | IT Came Upon a Mid-night Clear            |
| 21.                         | Let It Snow.....                          |
| 22.                         | Silent (K)night,                          |
| 23.                         | O, Little Town of Bethlehem               |
| 24.                         | Silver Bells, Hear them Ring              |

## Trinity Parish Nursery School

### Tis the season for giving!

Giving thanks for all of our blessings and giving to others who are less fortunate than us. My thanks to all of you who have generously donated coats to our coat drive last month to needy families in the greater Bridgeport area.

We also plan to help another organization, The Pajama Program, based out of NYC this season. This program provides new pajamas and new books to needy children, many of whom are waiting and hoping to be adopted. We will have a box available to accept donations of a new pajama/new book package at our Book Fair Pajama Party on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> in the Parish Hall. If you would like more information please visit their website at [www.pajamaprogram.org/pjdrive.html](http://www.pajamaprogram.org/pjdrive.html). I am thankful for all of you who help and support us year round to make Trinity and the world around us a better place!

What a fantastic fall it has been at Trinity. The children have been busy discovering the miracles of autumn. Apple sorting and tasting, pumpkin picking, hayrides, and Halloween celebrations are a few examples of the children's "work" at school. It's very exciting to see the children forming new friendship bonds and observe their personalities emerging.



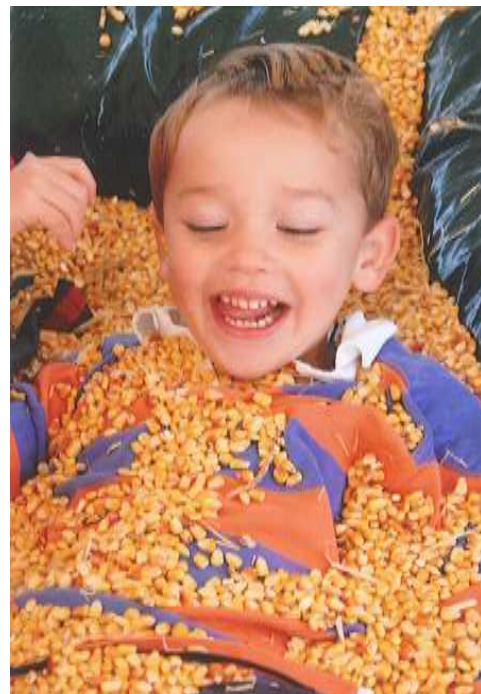
**Dinosaur Paw Book Fair...** Our kick-off Pajama Party will be held on Thursday evening, December 1, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Get a head start on your book shopping! Wear your PJ's, enjoy some music and snacks, and get some pictures with Santa. . \*Don't forget to bring a new Pajama/Book packet for our donation box.

**Registration** is in progress for next year. All "in house" registrations forms are now due. Open registration to the public begins now.

**Inclement Weather...** A reminder that when the Fairfield Public schools are closed due to inclement weather, so are we. If we decide to close early or have an opening delay that is different from the public schools we will activate our telephone tree. If you did not get a copy of your "class tree" please see Bev.

On behalf of the entire TPNS staff—we wish you all a safe, peaceful, and happy holiday season. Thank you for your continued support and your beautiful children.

~ Meg Reilly, Director





**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

Trinity Episcopal Church  
**Annual Meeting**  
Sunday, January 29

**Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am**  
**Followed by a short Breakfast**  
**in the Parish Hall**



**Meeting begins promptly at 10:30 am**

Committees, please email reports **by January 11** to:  
[admin@trinitysouthport.org](mailto:admin@trinitysouthport.org)  
**Your committee will not be represented**  
if no report is received!