

# THE STILL SMALL VOICE

NEWSLETTER FOR TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE GREEN



Dear Friends,

As I said in my sermon on November 1, the Episcopal Church is no longer defined by the culture it dwells within. So, in Advent, while we must be about the business of getting ready for the blessings of the holidays, those of us who live a life of the Spirit, find ways to

take a moment here and there to listen for the angels, be open to the mystery of the Incarnation and contemplate the awesomeness of God.

To me, the greatest hymn of the Incarnation is "Let all mortal flesh keep silence" (Hymn 324). Not every Episcopal church includes it in their midnight Christmas Eve Eucharist. But, when it is there, I am transformed to an exhalant place, far beyond holiday tinsel and brightly decorated department stores.

I know that I am surrounded by the holy and the transcendent.

In this season of the Incarnation, that began with the first Sunday of Advent and continues all the way to Ash Wednesday, find those moments when you can "ponder nothing earthly minded" because, "Christ our God descendeth...our full homage to demand."

All of us on the staff and vestry of Trinity Church on the Green wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year that renews your heart. We look forward to seeing you at one of the Christmas services, with your family and friends, and all through the coming year.

Very best love,

*James W.H. Sell*  
James W.H. Sell  
Interim Rector

December 2009

Did you know...

Trinity first talked of putting an elevator in over 30 years prior to our current construction project.

## The Rev. Estelle Webb

Dear Friends,

As I announced to you in church on November 22, for two years, the Rev. Estelle Webb has suffered from serious medical issues concerning her heart and lungs. But, a series of sudden complicating developments has required that she apply for medical disability insurance right away and take a leave of absence from Trinity Church. Therefore, her last Sunday was November 29.

We are all grieved by this. This church has been blessed with the gracious ministry of the Rev. Estelle Webb for nearly ten years. She has brought joy and love and faithfulness to all of us. Along with her traditional parish duties, she has been our chief caregiver to our shut-ins, housebound and hospitalized all of those years. Through her service with our own Home Board, she has done the work that makes Trinity Church a sacred place in the eyes of God and the wider community of New Haven. Her classes in personal spirituality have introduced many of you to the mystery that dwells in your hearts.

I, for one, cannot imagine Trinity without her. In my brief history with her, I have found her to possess great strength and wisdom. To say someone is irreplaceable is always an exaggeration. But, I can assure you, few possess the gifts for ministry she has. I know that you will miss her as much as I will.

Given the uncertainties of all of this, we have suggested that when we all have a clearer view of her future, we will invite her back for a "Estelle Webb Day," where we will honor her for her life and ministry among us.

In the meantime, your expressions of concern to Estelle and your prayers would be welcome.

Best love,

*Jim*

### Worship Attendance

November 1	
7:45	30
9:00	83
11:00	209
2:00	157
5:00	93
November 8	
7:45	55
9:00	91
11:00	164
2:00	74
November 15	
7:45	30
9:00	185
11:00	163
2:00	62
November 22	
7:45	28
9:00	80
11:00	197
2:00	50

## Christmas Offering and Memorial Envelopes



Please have your Christmas Offering and Memorial Envelopes returned to the office no later than **Wednesday, December 16** in order to include the names in the Christmas bulletins.

Additional envelopes are available in the church vestibule.

## Vestry Highlights: November

**Stewardship Committee:** Rose Pawlikowski reported that as of November 16, \$346,424 in pledges have been received. This is 54% of our goal. She also reported that we have 20 new pledges and 5 past pledgers returning. Follow-up phone calls, for those who have not returned their pledges, will be made after Thanksgiving.

**Interim Rector's Report:** The Rev. Jim Sell related that when he was interviewed for this job he thought it would be very difficult. He has since found out that he was mistaken. He went on to say that one of the strongest Rectors at Trinity appears to have been the Rev. Andy Fiddler. The Rev. Jim Sell reported that the first anniversary celebration of Chapel on the Green had about 160 people in attendance.

**Warden's Report:** Joe Dzeda brought the Vestry up to date on the condition of the organ. He said that the organ and console have been repaired and are now ready to go. Joe said that he was surprised that there was very little dust found in the pipes.

**Transition Report:** Barbara Hedberg reported that a meeting will be held from **4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Sunday, January 31** and went on to explain how the meeting would be conducted. She reported that Bishop Curry will be in attendance along with the Diocesan Transition Officer the Rev. Erik Larsen. A discussion followed about a possible visit, by the Vestry, to Diocesan House.

**Treasurer's Report:** Heather Alexopoulos explained her report and highlighted the following:

- a. Elevator financing: The Home Board has agreed to make 5 annual installments on the \$350,000 for the cost of the elevator.
- b. New office lease for the Parish Office is in progress for a 2 year lease.

- c. At the December Vestry meeting there will be a 2010 Budget update and a vote on clergy housing allowances.

Discussion of how to set up a committee budget request process followed.

**Properties and Columbarium Committee Report:** Peg Chambers reported on the status of the Columbarium. She explained the delay in getting the metal worker started on the grillwork. Duo Dickinson talked about moving the remainder of items in the south gallery before Christmas and that the stairway to the undercroft will be completed by that time.

**Nominating Committee:** Chairperson, Eleanor Tignor reported on the actions of the committee. She said that the committee has received 31 recommendations for Vestry. As of November 16, Eleanor related that 10 nominees have been confirmed and 11 have declined. Eleanor said that we will be electing either 6 or 7 Vestry members, depending upon whether or not the warden comes from the current Vestry.

The Rev. Jim Sell reported that he is in the process of training lay parishioners in "laying on of hands". He also reported that, after we move the coffee hour back to the undercroft. The Rev. Jim Sell also reported that the Adult Forum will resume in January, 2010.

Karrie Hendrickson thanked the Vestry for appointing her and Rose Pawlikowski as delegates to the Diocesan convention. She also reported that her husband Robert has been endorsed by Committee II for ordination.

## Ways to give this Season...

The Giving Tree is on display in the vestibule.

We invite you to select an ornament tag from the tree and return your wrapped gift by

**December 20.** Please make the check payable to Trinity Church and write "Giving Tree" in the memo line of your check.

Bring an **UNWRAPPED** Christmas present to the Christmas Pageant on **December 20.**

The Pageant will be at **10:00 am**

## Book Group to Meet December 7



The next Book Group meeting will be held on **Monday, December 7** at **7:30 pm** at the home of Jenny and Derek Briggs, 10 Lincoln Street, New Haven. Please contact the Briggs at [jennifer.briggs@yale.edu](mailto:jennifer.briggs@yale.edu) or (203) 624-2488 to let them know you are coming.

The book we will discuss is *Suite Française*, by Irène Némirovsky.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Book Group for any or all meetings. The book list and schedule is found at Trinity's website ([www.trinitynewhaven.org](http://www.trinitynewhaven.org)), go to "What We Do" and look for "Book Group" under "Fellowship".

## 2009 Holiday Bazaar Wrap-up

By: Mary Ann Stroup, Holiday Bazaar Chairperson



### Dear Holiday Bazaar Family,

What an exciting Bazaar! The Bazaar is about community, reaching out to others and raising money. Two weeks ago I spoke to you from my heart concerned we would not have enough volunteers for the bazaar to operate, cookies to sell, or items for the Silent Auction. You answered in love and shared your bounty.

We had a record number of volunteers and welcomed new members into our Holiday Bazaar Family. Volunteers floated in and out, we were allowed to spread out, and even clean the tag sale items. The clergy, ever present, provided several lunches for us. During the bazaar volunteers abounded and were very willing to do whatever was asked. New friendships were created and others renewed. The clean up was completed in under an hour and a half. It was like watching an animated movie in double time.

Trinity loves its cookies, jams and baked goods and so do our customers. We sold over 400 dozen cookies. The Food Court set a new record high in sales.

On Thursday so many people were lined up we could not even count them. Our volunteers were ready. Customers were in awe of our new undercroft, the quality and variety of offerings, the friendliness of our staff and the genuine caring we extended to each visitor. It has taken years to build our reputation and this year we reached a new level. Our publicity team worked diligently to increase our profile. We made the Channel 3 news.

The Baskets for the raffle offered variety, were filled with wonderful things and beautifully displayed. We passed state inspection with flying colors.

This year's Silent Auction was a feast for the eyes. The items were beautifully displayed. Thank you for your generosity. We will not have the final numbers until all items are accounted for. If all goes well we will be over \$13,000. Great Job!

Let us celebrate and give thanks for each other. Thank you to everyone for giving of their time, talent and treasure. We estimate we are approaching \$32,500. Please remember, this year, we did not receive a start up grant to offset some of our start up expenses and accordingly our final net figures will reflect this. We will keep you informed as our numbers are finalized.

Please watch the Weekly Wrapper for the announcement for the "Holiday Bazaar thank you Celebration."

## Christmas Pageant



It's time to cast the players, iron the costumes and rehearse an event that holds fond memories for many.

On **Sunday, December 20** at **10:00 am** Trinity's youngest members will present the annual Christmas Pageant. If you missed the "Living Nativity" last year, you'll have a chance to see the church transformed once again.

We have already cast a live baby Jesus and our friends at Olympia Farm in Guilford have kindly consented to loan us their animals.

Be sure to reserve the date, and plan on attending a very special Christmas program at Trinity.

## Petals 2 Go

When preparing for the holidays, remember our florist David Coan at Petals 2 Go for wreaths, centerpieces and decorations. All Trinity parishioners receive a discount and he will design decorations for your home. David can be reached at (203) 484-7800 and is located at 207 Foxon Road in North Branford.

**Annual Christmas Concert**

*The Trinity Choir of Men and Boys*

**Sunday, December 6, 2009**

**4:00 pm**

*Seasonal Carols for choir and for all*

**Trinity Church on the Green**  
Temple at Chapel Streets in New Haven, CT

**Suggested donation at the door - \$10.00**

## The Move Back to the Undercroft!

We need as many bodies as possible to be present between **9:00 am - 11:00 am** on **Saturday, December 5** to re-inhabit the Undercroft. We will need to both clean the things we bring back down, but also, if needed, sort through and install some items (so bring whatever screw guns/boxes of screws you might have). You don't have to be there at 9:00 am, but if you could be there any time within the 9:00 am – 11:00 am window, we would need all the bodies we can get to make this a fun (versus painful) experience.

## The laying on of hands for healing



There is one ministry of the Episcopal Church that has grown greatly in popularity over the last twenty years or so; the laying on of hands for healing. A number of people at Trinity are considering offering it here.

The design would be that during the reception of communion (or immediately after), persons who would wish to receive this ministry would gravitate toward the back of the church. There, they would go up to one of the “healers”. A “healer” asks if that recipient might have any specific healing requests. Then, the healer lays his/her hands on the head of the participant and offers a prayer that includes the specific petition requested.

You will note that we have been putting quote marks around the word, healer. We do that because I do not think any of us has that kind of power. Some of us might have the capacity to cure, but it is God who heals. What we really do is offer supportive prayers for healing

If you would be interested in exploring your own participation in this venture, we would invite to you to a conversation on **Sunday, December 6**, in the undercroft, after the **9:00 am** service (about 10:15 am). What we are looking for are just people who take it seriously. You do not have to have it all figured out. (Many of us still don't.) Episcopalians are not people who make a show of this ministry. It is very quiet, very private and very gentle.

## Construction Update

By: Duo Dickinson, Properties Chairperson

If you were among the many people who moved the Holiday Bazaar paraphernalia down to the Undercroft on **Sunday, November 8**, you have seen a project about 90% complete. The bathrooms will be fully functional for the Bazaar and classroom partitions and curtains arrive after the Bazaar leaves. The central point of all our work, the elevator, will have its major demolition phase in the next couple of weeks. Meanwhile, the Columbarium is being assembled in a relatively rapid fashion and if you peek your head through the plastic sheeting, you can actually see almost all of the base cabinets are in place and pew side panels have been recycled on the hall side.

One area of fine tuning is light fixtures in place in the central Undercroft space. The level of lighting is dimmer than could have been anticipated given the ratings of the fixtures and

# Christmas at Trinity

## Christmas Eve

5:00 pm - Family Eucharist

10:00 pm - Caroling begins

10:30 pm -  
Festive Choral Eucharist

## Christmas Day

11:00 am - Holy Eucharist

*For more information, visit our website*

*[www.TrinityNewHaven.org](http://www.TrinityNewHaven.org)*

light bulbs used. We are efforting elevating the level of that lighting via new lamping and reflectors—hopefully in time for the Bazaar. Right now the lighting falls in the “mood” category.

Additionally, donors have been found to supply a stone countertop for the main center island.

There will be a need for another massive gathering of human volunteers as soon as the Bazaar is over as we need to finally remove all of the elements that are still up in the balcony and return them to their rightful location in the Undercroft space, but also remove all the remnant elements left over from the Bazaar.

Trinity Church on the Green  
December 2009

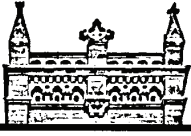
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 November 7:45a Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 10:10a - 10:45a Christian Education for Children 11:00a Advent Lessons & Carols 11:00a Children's Chapel 2:00p Chapel on the Green <b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	30	1 December 5:00p - 7:00p Choir Rehearsal 5:30p Chapel on the Green Advisory Committee Meeting	2 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service 12:30p Home Board Meeting 5:00p - 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 5:30p Evangelism Committee Meeting at Parish Office	3 12:00p Al Anon Meeting 5:00p - 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p - 9:00p Choir Rehearsal	4 4:30p - 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 6:00p - 8:00p Parents' Night Out	5 9:00a - 11:00a Properties Committee Work Day
6 7:45a Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 10:10a Healing Ministry Training 10:10a - 10:45a Christian Education for Children 11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 11:00a Children's Chapel 2:00p Chapel on the Green 2:30p Choir Rehearsal 4:00p - 6:00p Jr. & Sr. Youth Group at St. PJs 4:00p Christmas Concert <b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	7 7:30p Trinity Book Group (away)	8 5:00p - 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	9 11:00a Service at Whitney Center 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service 5:00p - 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 5:30p Executive Committee Meeting	10 12:00p Al Anon Meeting 12:00p Clericus Meeting at Trinity Church on the Green, New Haven 5:00p - 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p - 9:00p Choir Rehearsal	11 4:30p - 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	12 Girls Choir Madison Concert, Time TBA
13 7:45a Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 10:10a - 10:45a Christian Education for Children 11:00a Choral Eucharist, Rite 1 11:00a Children's Chapel 2:00p Chapel on the Green 4:00p - 6:00p Jr. & Sr. Youth Group at St. PJs <b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	14 6:00p Prayer Vigil for Climate Change 8:00p Benjamin Straley's Organ Concert at Woolsey Hall	15 5:00p - 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	16 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service 5:00p - 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	17 10:30a Service at Paradigm 12:00p Al Anon Meeting 5:00p - 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p - 9:00p Choir Rehearsal	18 4:30p - 6:45p Choir Rehearsal	19 9:30a - 2:00p Pageant Rehearsal 4:00p Boys Choir with United/Elm City Choirs Concert at First Congregational Church, Madison
20 7:45a Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 10:00a Christmas Pageant & Morning Prayer, Rite 1 2:00p Chapel on the Green 4:00p - 6:00p Jr. & Sr. Youth Group at St. PJs <b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	21 5:30p Vestry Meeting	22 5:00p - 7:00p Choir Rehearsal 7:00p - 8:30p Choir Rehearsal	23 11:00a Service at Whitney Center 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service <i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>	24 12:00p Al Anon Meeting <b>1:00p Office Closes</b> 4:00p - 5:00p Choir Rehearsal 5:00p Family Eucharist, Rite 2 9:00p - 10:10p Choir Rehearsal 10:10p Carol Singing 10:30p Choral Eucharist, Rite 1 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	25 11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26
27 7:45a Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 2:00p Chapel on the Green <b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	28	29 <i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>	30 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service <i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>	31 12:00p Al Anon Meeting <i>No Choir Rehearsals</i>	1 <i>No Choir Rehearsal</i> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	2



**Parents Night Out**  
Drop off your child at Trinity and go Christmas shopping

**Friday, Dec. 4 6pm - 8pm**

**RSVP to the Parish Office by Dec 1**



**Trinity**  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

**Parish Office:**

129 Church Street,  
Suite # 705  
New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: 203-624-3101  
Fax: 203-624-2412  
E-mail: [office@trinitynewhaven.org](mailto:office@trinitynewhaven.org)  
Website: [www.trinitynewhaven.org](http://www.trinitynewhaven.org)

**Music Office:**

Phone: 203-776-2616  
**Parish Administrator:**  
Sherrill Farkas  
Phone: 203-776-2606  
E-mail: [sfarkas@trinitynewhaven.org](mailto:sfarkas@trinitynewhaven.org)

# THE STILL SMALL VOICE

A Newsletter of Trinity on the Green

## THE MISSION OF TRINITY CHURCH

God's love calls us to proclaim with joy the good news of Jesus Christ, to welcome all people into the community of faith, and to serve Christ through serving others.

## THE MINISTERS OF TRINITY

All the people of Trinity Church

## THE CLERGY:

The Rev. James W. H. Sell, *Interim Rector*  
The Rev. Estelle Webb, *Associate for Pastoral Ministries*  
The Rev. Alex Dyer, *Associate for Parish Life*



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