

# PARISH LETTER

## Gathering Sunday

Sept. 12th

Godly Play & J2A classes  
start again. See page 2.

### Sunday Services

8 am

Quiet Eucharist  
(breakfast follows)

10:15

Sung Eucharist  
(coffee hour follows)

### Taize Service

2nd Sunday, 5 pm

### Weekday Services

Morning Prayer 7 am  
Monday through Saturday

### Godly Play

Resumes Sept. 12

### Choirs

Chancel Choir rehearsals  
Resume Sept. 19, 9:15 am for  
Sunday service.

Children's Choir: Rehearsals  
start again on Wed, Sept. 22,  
3:45 pm. To sing once a  
month at

10:15 service.

### Concert

John Philp, Sunday Oct. 17,  
4 pm organ recital. Proceeds  
to Trinity.

### Vestry

Sept. 27, 7 pm  
Parish House

## Gathering and Gratitude: notes from the Rector

I write to you as summer comes to a close and we are invited to gather once again at Trinity for worship, fellowship and nurture. As you may know, Gillian and I were privileged to take a sabbatical leave during May, June and July, so gathering with you once again takes on a special meaning this year. Gathering Sunday and the opening of the Fall Godly Play Program for its eighth year will be September 12<sup>th</sup>.



Photo: Stephen Booth

We began our leave by participating in a gathering of thirty-four family members from Canada, the U.S., the U.K. and the Canary Islands, in a small village in Normandy. We were there to witness the unveiling of a monument commemorating the death of one of Gillian's uncles during the Battle of Normandy in 1944. Our family was in turn part of a much larger gathering of the villagers of Rigomer des Bois, who surrounded us with warm and gracious hospitality and a constantly expressed gratitude. After nearly seventy years the people of this small community were still motivated by a simple and profound sense of gratitude for their liberation and the part that one young man played in that great gift.

As I watched a young officer from the Royal Air Force lay a wreath of the foot of the monument, I was reminded of my own gratitude for the peace, prosperity and freedom I and my generation have enjoyed because of the sacrifices of our parents' generation.

As we traveled on through France, the U.K. and Canada, I continued to be struck by the importance of gratitude in our lives. Days spent in prayer at the Benedictine monastery of Pierre qui Vire and at the ecumenical Christian community of Taizé, were times for reflection on my gratitude for the faithful witness of our own parishioners, George Bergen and Carolina and Joe Carry, whose own pilgrimages had led us to those places. Climbing to the heights of Mont Saint Michel to share its abbey with monks of centuries past and present and standing in the light of Chartre's inexpressibly beautiful windows, reminded me of the debt and gratitude I owe to my spiritual forebears.

I am, of course, grateful to you, the congregation of Trinity for affording me the opportunity for travel, recreation – I caught my first French *truite*, not to mention some English trout and Canadian and Maine salmon – and for rest, reading and reflection. It was a gift for which I shall, like our French friends, remain grateful as we gather for another year, grateful for all that God has given to us, free to worship Him without fear in the gathered community that is His Church.

## AROUND THE PARISH

*After rocky times, gratitude for Stephen's ministry....2010 a good time for Trinity*

*We have three classrooms this fall — two for Godly Play, one for J2A....*

Our fearless reporter **Launce Blenkin** reminds us that a Sunday or two ago was **Stephen Booth's** seventh anniversary as Trinity's Rector. While it seems incredible that seven years have passed since Stephen and Gillian joined us, the parish he came to in the early part of the new decade seems even further away. At a time perhaps made easier by several good interims, the Trinity ship was still sailing very rocky seas when the Booths arrived that summer day. The Time of the Troubles, as some refer to it, was not far behind us and the pain and disorder of those years still fresh. As Susan Dana once explained when a candidate the search committee was interviewing asked about our young people, "we have a teenager." That was our youth. Could we have imagined the joyous noise of our Godly Play children? The serious new purpose of those children now grown to Journey to Adulthood? That we would have 18 children in the children's choir? The young parents who have brought new life to our old pews? And the faithful presence of so many who led us through a wilderness, and all those who kept coming every Sunday with faith that this too shall pass.

Before any of us New Englanders who would rather not dwell on bad times raise their hand to still this pen, let's agree not to forget lest we risk what Santayana warned us of: *those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it*. It is also a matter of gratitude, which Stephen writes about in another context in this issue. Gratitude for Stephen's calm, wise, creative ministry among us, for Gillian's which is hardly less important, for their leadership in supporting Claudia Well's idea for Godly Play, for the parishioners who trained as story tellers and spend hours working on their stories and telling them, for the parents who came with their children, for the children, for watching them grow, for being witness to Estevan's Rite 13, for the music that Anita has brought to the church and to the children, for the older congregants who have been welcoming and supportive, for our new members who have brought fresh life and ideas to this old Parish, for all who work hard raising and shepherding our money, for those who conserve our treasures, repair our buildings, make the altar beautiful with flowers, who serve at services, host breakfasts and coffee hours, attend to outreach to the community and nation and world, travel to various parts of the Diocese for meetings and workshops, attend morning prayer and Taizé and evensong and Sunday services. We are grateful for those who left us treasures that have helped put us on sounder financial footing, for the beauties that surround us in our sacred space. We are grateful that our church can host fine concerts, and also be a home for groups and welcome people who would never otherwise have come through our doors. In the year 2010, Trinity is indeed a fortunate parish.

The **Outreach Committee** raised \$868 at the August **Ice Cream Social** for Thelma's Little Fund. **Cathy Fabian, George Bergen, Heather Heim and Linda Cooper** traveled to South Hadley on a recent beautiful Saturday morning for a "Safe Church" workshop.

*Inga Dean*

### GODLY PLAY STARTS NEW SESSION

Heather Heim reports: We have missed having the children in the church since the end of July but now Gathering Sunday will bring them back. August provides a much-needed break for the teachers and the children and everyone is ready and excited to get back into the classrooms.

We have three class rooms this fall. Two of them will be dedicated to Godly Play and the third will be Journey to Adulthood (often referred to as J2A). The Godly Play students will begin the year with the sacred stories from the Old Testament, from Creation to the Prophets. Our J2A class will continue their exploration of self identity within the context of Christian faith.

## SABBATICAL TIME FOR TRAVEL AND REFLECTION

For Stephen Booth, his three month sabbatical took him to France, monasteries, churches, Taize, cities and small towns, across the channel (or actually under it) on the Eurostar to Britain, back to Nova Scotia, and of course to a familiar river or two. It gave him time to travel, to reflect and to read.

The first major event was the dedication of a statue in the Norman village of Rigomer des Bois in honor of Gillian's Uncle William Black, who had been shot down in 1944 while doing photo reconnaissance as a member of the RCAF. For the small town it was the only casualty of the second World War and the memorial and honoring celebration included almost the entire population of 400 with the streets lined with flags, speeches, a church service and a huge lunch in the town hall. Thirty four members of Gillian's family from Canada and the UK attended in addition to her Uncle's 94 year old Squadron Leader and a childhood friend also in her ninth decade.

As Stephen told the Vestry Monday, when George Bergen "suggested" a visit to his monastery, Abbaye Sainte Marie de la Pierre-qui-Vire in Burgundy — the beautiful place where he had gone to school and often returns to for retreats — there was no way the Booths would (could?) not go. There they followed the rigorous pattern of the Benedictine monastic community — prayers at 2:30 am, 6:30 am, mid morning, noon, late afternoon and evening, and silent breakfasts and dinners — and had nice walks in the attractive countryside, some interesting talks with George's old friends.

Also in the footsteps of Trinity friends, the Booths visited the Taizé community where some years ago Joe Carry met Carolina. There they also followed the less rigorous daily offices, and participated in adult study groups. Bible stories were told and the groups would break up into groups to discuss them.

The Booths travels took them from south to north and in between — Paris, Provence, Normandy, Burgundy, Bordeaux Brittany, the gardens at Giverny, Mont St. Michel, Chartres — to some of the great towns, cities and cathedrals of France. After that the Booths went back under the Channel to England where Stephen headed to his fishing grounds in Dorchester and Gillian to Scotland to visit some old friends and relations. Then it was back to Nova Scotia in June and July where Stephen read and reflected, citing particularly Alan F. Segal's book *Life After Death* and St. Paul. The last Sunday of Stephen's sabbatical was spent preaching at Trinity Church, York Harbor, famous for being Dick Jackson's long time summer church.



**Godly Play and J2A Volunteers and Teachers:** We have nearly 20 active volunteers who dedicate time to making our Godly Play program as wonderful as it is. It takes a great deal of effort to make a Godly Play session run smoothly. The storyteller must memorize the story – some of which are over 10 pages long – and learn the orchestrated movements that help make the story come alive for our children. Our greeters help manage the classroom and ensure that everyone is settled and ready to listen to God's word. There are times when our Sundays in the Godly Play classrooms are beyond our wildest expectations and the adults leave having a much deeper understanding of a particular story because of our children's miraculous insights.

Adding the Journey to Adulthood classroom requires even more involvement from dedicated volunteers. There will be two teams of teachers who will help our seven J2A students journey through this program of spiritual formation. We are incredibly grateful to our two new volunteers: George Bergen and John Gamberoni. George is a longtime Trinity member who dedicates much of his time to deepening his own spiritual life and that of the parish. John Gamberoni has been attending Trinity for over a year. He and his wife Cathy have three daughters, Siena, Ava and Tessa. We are incredibly grateful that he has agreed to help. Linda Cooper and Heather Heim will be joining George and John in the J2A classroom this year and will continue to teach in the Godly Play classrooms as well. *Heather Heim*

**Vestry Notes**

Some of the topics covered at the Aug. 30 meeting:

- **Discussion of endowment income which is down because of current financial conditions.**
- **Motion carried to go forward with stained glass window repair, costing \$5,225, of two Tiffany windows (see story at right). Concern that money be raised to cover these costs as it was for previous window repairs.**
- **Mr. Journey and Mr. Peters offered to put together a brochure with photos of the windows.**
- **The Rector thanked the Vestry and Parish for making his recent Sabbatical possible and reported on his time away.**
- **Mrs. Heim reported on the new session of Godly Play and J2A and that there were 18 children in the choir this fall.**

**Stained Glass Windows and Stewardship**

Over the summer we were fortunate to have three more stained glass window restored with new frames and protective all-weather glass. Two of the newly restored windows are in the chapel and are now very visible as they look out into the courtyard. The other window overlooks the choir pews and brings more light into the organ keyboard where Anita Stuart plays and performs each Sunday. We were very blessed with several gifts this summer which were designated for these windows. Our next goal is to restore the two windows in the Nave which also look out into the courtyard. Stay tuned for more updates and thanks to all who helped in every way.

The Stewardship Committee will become more active again this fall as we focus on our annual giving and pledges as we approach 2011. We look forward to autumn at Trinity church.

*The Stewardship Committee: Steve Peters, Linda Cooper, Virginia Giddens, Heather Heim, Jeff Kittross and John Veague.*

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