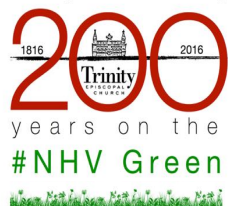


trinitynewhaven.org



TRINITY BUILDING

TRINITY ON THE GREEN STILL SMALL VOICE



Trinity's Bicentennial Building Care for the Future

By Properties' Chair Duo Dickinson, History Ministry's Chair Peg Chambers, and Barbara Lamb, Events Coordinator

In 2016 Trinity Church will be celebrating the bicentennial of its presence on the New Haven Green. On February 21, 1816 Bishop John Henry Hobart consecrated and dedicated our church to the Holy Trinity.

The cornerstone was laid only two years earlier and the construction of our church building took place amid the complexity of local politics and international turbulence of the 1812 War and its aftermath. Nevertheless Trinity parish and architect Ithiel Town worked tirelessly and brought the first explicit Neo-Gothic church building to America. Our parish will celebrate those 200 years on the Green with a series of events starting with an Interfaith prayer service on Sunday January 17, 2016 at 5pm.

The main commemoration will take place on Sunday February 21, exactly 200 years to the day, with a solemn 10am celebration, presided by The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, Suffragan Bishop of our diocese. More information about the bicentennial program will soon follow.

In this issue of Trinity's Still Small Voice newsletter you will find more information about recent projects on our church building and plans for the future. Reports are contributed by Duo Dickinson, our Properties' chair and by Peg Chambers, our History Ministry chair.

Trinity is blessed with a large group of dedicated people who keep the wellbeing and the future of our church building close to their heart. We are profoundly grateful for all staff and volunteers who offer such an amazing level of quality care. May God bless our building, our community and our future.

Trinity's Properties Committee

We are the folk that take care of the building

By Duo Dickinson

Everyone knows Trinity's Chief Sexton, Sam Sigg, who leads a dedicated crew of Sextons who care for Trinity's 200 year old Sanctuary. But there are a group of parishioners who are charged by the Vestry with reviewing all elements of Trinity's physical plant: The Properties Committee.

Trinity's perch on the New Haven Green means that the church owns no land, but when the use of that part of the Green was dedicated to Trinity and the other 2 churches it was stipulated that they could control and have use of "2 Ox Carts' Width" of area around each building. So while there are no "grounds" for a "building and grounds" committee, changing needs and vigilance in the maintenance of our Historic Landmark requires ongoing funding, dedicated expertise and sweat equity by volunteers.

Over the years, as many as 5 architects have been members, but anyone of any experience level or ability is needed to keep an old

Individuals on Properties often donate time to fulfill a specific mission or tasking: when the Music Department wanted to raise a rear choir pew, one member found the time to complete fabricate and install (with Sexton help) the riser after the entire committee huddled to figure out the best approach.

building safe, useful and affordably maintained, both now and in the out years. For instance at the end of the summer, funding was obtained to purchase IKEA furniture, but in order to create a place someone had to move 2 of the movable room partitions. So several volunteers took a Saturday afternoon to do that, while others assembled the new furniture to create a place for people to comfortably have small meetings, work on laptops while waiting for choristers to finish practice or just relax.

Work days are also performed on the exterior, involving long term

Emmaus Disciples meeting Christ
Tiffany Window at Trinity on the Green



planning and funding. Our front doors had been replaced 15 years ago, and needed repainting and interior refinishing. Sam and his crew helped out, but Properties determined the best traditional color, donated all the materials, filled, primed and painted over the fall with Sam, and into spring and summer.

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But sometimes Properties designs, facilitates, finds funding and gets pricing for projects without actually doing the work. Parishioners

requested that a "soft space" be created in the sanctuary. Properties identified one pew, to the extreme northeast of the nave, that was seldom occupied, and solicited bids for its removal, facilitated a donation to cover costs of construction, received a donation of a rug from Kababian's and 2 other parishioners donated a rocker. Finished last winter the "soft space", at zero cost, facilitated accommodation of more infants coming to Trinity.

Over almost 20 years, \$200,000 or more has been spent preserving and protecting Trinity's stained glass windows. Funded by proceeds from the Holiday Bazaar, virtually every window has been rebuilt, new protective glazing applied and immediate trim restored. The Road to Emmaus Window is shown.



Grant for Front Steps

A matching State Historic Preservation Office Grant allows for reimbursement of half of approximate \$235,000 required to remove and rebuild the steps and railings in the one Brownstone that will last.

Our Front Steps

Front Steps Repair

Sixteen years ago the steps in front of Trinity received their last possible Band-Aid-removal of unsound surfaces, and replacement with colored concrete over the ever eroding original brown stone core. There was simply not enough original material to allow for another cheap solution. As you can see from the photos ongoing patching and caulking does not allow for safe access into the future. The steps replacement became a long-planned-for budget item and Properties started the arduous process of applying for a matching Connecticut Historic Preservation Office Grant, which was finally received after hundreds of volunteer

hours and donated services, multiple meetings, bidding and negotiations.

The grant allows for reimbursement of half of approximate \$235,000 required to remove and rebuild the steps and railings in the one brownstone that will last (after the state rejected a granite solution). Bidding is occurring in the fall, contract to be signed in the spring and construction will be tightly circumscribed for the summer months to minimize inevitable disruption and make for a safer imposition of rebuilding.



200 Year Old Spandrel Saved New Spanish Cedar to Restore Trim

The "gothic-ization" of Ithiel Towne's 1814 design for Trinity Church was expressed largely in detailing: the ogive arched windows and tower top ornaments remain, but the roof eave edge battlements are long gone. Eight years ago the spandrel inset trim at either side of the Upper Room's 250th Anniversary Window was also removed as it began to fall apart.

The Properties Committee saved the pieces in hopes of finding funding for replacement. The State Historic Preservation Grant proved inadequate, but a New Haven Preservation Trust Grant covered half of the \$7,000 fabrication cost. Properties has taken up the task of pre-painting the new trim and the installation may well be covered by the State Grant obtained by Trinity.

The Spanish cedar pieces will be set inset into the triangular spaces on either side of the center window trim.

The 200 year old original spandrel trim was saved to allow precise replication and salvaged pieces will be available for sale the week after the the Holiday Bazaar to fund the new trim's installation.





While church is not a building (it really is the mission of the people who create and nurture its reason for existing) Trinity's building is an extraordinary piece of history infused with the spirit of 200 years of preservation and fine tuning often unsung by its parishioners - over 60 years ago our undercroft replaced a rotting wood sanctuary floor over a muddy crawl space. 10 years later the church's Parish Hall was sold and that basement became the Undercroft.

Duo Dickinson



Storage, Assistance, Results Properties Team in Action

After about three years of renting our church office space from the Church of Christ Scientist across Chapel Street, Trinity negotiated additional storage for the Holiday Bazaar. Properties agreed to clean out the basement space and extend the dropped ceiling, fix the lighting and help move and/or dispose of items our landlord no longer wanted.

When the Connecticut Diocesan Offices moved their archives from the basement of Diocesan House to a new loft space in Meriden, Properties obtained a huge amount of nearly new, heavy duty shelving for free that was not part of the new Diocesan offices in Meriden. Its re-assembly by Properties will facilitate efficient easy access for storage of items in the basement.

Properties has irregular, but sometimes frequent meetings that review suggestions, deal with concerns and keep costs under control. In the past few years

building security, subsurface water control, storage and lighting have been dealt with projects whose costs will be determined with vetting by the Rector and the Head-Sexton enacted with Vestry. It's a great group, who always needs fresh faces, ideas and hands!

In the last 20 years, Properties have overseen construction of an elevator, a Columbarium, an Upper Room, a new kitchen, restored all the windows and survived a lightning strike. But the work is never done: lighting will be upgraded, the tower will be stabilized from weather and erosion and we will be addressing ongoing rain, rat and security issues.

All of these efforts take money. But more importantly they take devotion and the Properties Committee embodies the sweat equity and gifts of time and talent that can generate private and public dollars to insure that our beloved stone box is around for another 200 years. Come join us!

Trinity's History Ministry

Our History is Everyone's Treasure

By Peg Chambers

The History Ministry @ Trinity Episcopal Church on the New Haven Green, as we are officially labeled, is commonly called the History Ministry or HM for short. Our Mission Statement says: Trinity's History Ministry seeks to honor and celebrate the history of the community, building, documents, art and artifacts of Trinity Episcopal Church on the Green in New Haven, CT.

To that end, HM consists of three Teams, the Archives Team, the Building Team and the Events Team. We were committees from our beginning as a large group of twenty volunteers in 2011, but with our rector's help, we successfully morphed into the Team concept during 2013. The Team concept allows us to work independently as smaller groups on our particular areas of focus.

We had our first Annual Meeting on November 1, 2014, All Saints Day! While we do not consider our efforts truly saintly, they are surely sincere! We invite any of you to approach any of us to see how you might become involved. In the meanwhile, get to know us by our teamwork. Who knows, as we get to know you, you may find one of us tapping your shoulder to tease you with a

"Our history is everyone's treasure. Our 1814 building is, after all, one of three National Historic Landmark churches on the equally National Historic Landmark New Haven Green"

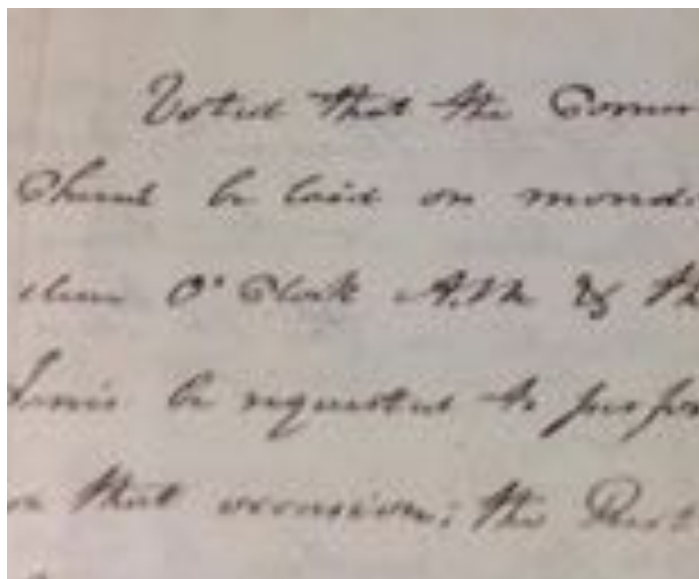
Peg Chambers

possible short-term project which we think might interest you! Our hope is to demystify the process of finding and understanding our history here at Trinity. Our history is everyone's treasure. Our 1814 building is, after all, one of three National Historic Landmark churches on the equally National Historic Landmark New Haven Green.

Please note that our second Annual Meeting of the History Ministry will be held at 10:00 am on October 31, 2015. We will meet in the Undercroft (Parish Hall) that morning. If you are interested in finding out more about what we have been doing on our teams and/or signing up as a member, please attend! What follows is an introduction to our teamwork.

Post Card





The Trinity archives serves as the documentary memory of Trinity Episcopal Church, New Haven, CT, and a place for inquiry and study of the church's history.



History Ministry's Archive Team Conserving Our Treasures

The Archives Team is accomplishing the items on their strategic plan. Their Guiding Principles, as they record all the paper documents owned by the parish, may be found on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-Episcopal-Church-Historical-Archive/194268047413961>.

Their undertaking is massive, as Trinity consecrated its first church building in 1752 and its parishioners formed a missionary society long before then! As an aid, the Archives Team is incorporating an open source web publishing software designed for small libraries and archives. They are also creating new documentation for the digital workflow, as well as guidelines and policies for archives users.

Their occasional Archive Discovery sessions highlight recent findings. Further, they take every opportunity to present their work at professional conferences.

At a point, decisions will be made on how to incorporate our art, artifacts and an ever-growing group of electronic documents and images into our master database. The plan is to make all our materials research-accessible and our finding aid(s) user-friendly. In the meanwhile, much is available on or through our parish website under the heading, 'History.'

History Ministry's Building Team Preserving Our National Historic Landmark

The Building Team is a liaison with our parish Vestry's standing committee, the Properties Committee, otherwise known as Properties. The Building Team acts as an incubator, looking into possible sources for grant-funding, particularly matching monies that might be sought to offset the costs of preserving with care our Historic National Landmark church as part of the New Haven Green National Historic Landmark District.

Last year, 2014 saw the results of two approved grant applications for matching monies from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and also from a new combined program through the State of CT Office of the Arts and the State of CT Historic Preservation Office. These monies allowed us to replicate one band of late 19thc stenciling on our nave walls, utilizing in the process enthusiastic parishioners, their friends, and ten students from the Arts and Humanities Cooperative High School, a five-minute walk from Trinity! This work spanned



Trinity Parishioners Mark and Sam Lawless at one of the many Historic Stenciling Project workshops, Summer, 2014

More Information on:
trinitynewhaven.org/historic-stenciling-project/

the entire year of 2014 and is coming to completion now in 2015. For more information on this springboard preservation project at Trinity, see trinitynewhaven.org/historic-stenciling-project/.

The Building Team, through the Vestry, now has an application that has just been approved through the State of CT Historic Preservation Office for matching monies to preserve our front steps and entry via sensitive reconstruction! This

is great good news for our Building Team initiative. Hooray! Expect to see activity out front by mid-summer, 2016.

Additionally, this year (2015) a small but significant grant for matching monies was applied for and received from the New Haven Preservation Trust. This grant has made possible the replication in cedar of the original symmetrical spandrels above the main entrance to our building, as designed between 1814 and 1815 by Ithiel Town, our building's architect.



Students from the Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School in front of their stenciling artistry, Historic Stenciling Project, Fall, 2014

While they have been fabricated and prime coated at this point, these replicated spandrels will be hoisted into place during the front steps project in the summer of 2016.

Working with Properties, the Building Team continues to help establish and prioritize projects required to properly care for and preserve our church building. This is a significant undertaking, demanding constant vigilance, review and reassessment, particularly as fresh documentary and/or archaeological information/evidence is uncovered. For guidelines followed in this approach, see www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm.

History Ministry's Events Team Let Us Remember Our Roots

The Events Team reaches out to the parish and greater community by planning events that uphold our history through its celebration. In 2012, we had good fun taking a bus tour to other churches designed by Ithiel Town, Trinity's architect, followed in 2013 by tours of Trinity and Center Church, both on the Green (and both designed by Ithiel), with a concluding (as it were) picnic at Ithiel's gravesite in Grove Street Cemetery! Picnicking in cemeteries was a favored Victorian pastime!

Our focus beginning in 2014 has been and continues to be the planning of Trinity Bicentennial commemorations of both the 200th Anniversary of the laying of our cornerstone in 1814 and the Consecration of the resulting building (our current church) in 1816. We celebrated our Cornerstone's laying on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 with a procession from the site of our first church, a service on the apron, and a Waffle Frolic with Toy Timeline Exhibit and history-based crafts. For photos of the day's activities, see www.facebook.com/trinitynewhaven.

Leading to our celebration of the 1816 Consecration of Trinity's current building, planning meetings began early in 2015. Many ideas are 'on the table:' a redux of Golden Arches: Golden Pipes (by Trinity Players); a Sunday Forum lecture series; a Gala Picnic replete with family activities at Lighthouse Point, a re-dedicatory service, an early-19thc period concert with James Sinclair's Orchestra New England (Trinity's Music Committee is working with us on this event), possibly preceded by a fund-raiser dinner at the Graduate Club (the home of our early 19thc bishop,

Abraham Jarvis). The hope is to obtain private or corporate underwriting where appropriate and to rely on ticket sales where possible. Events that cannot be thusly funded will simply not happen.

In anticipation of these 2016 bicentennial events, we have begun to form a Tour Guild. To date, we have five official guides, and, as a start-up activity, we gave tours of the building's exterior, nave and chancel

every Sunday during July 2015 immediately following the combined 10 am service. These tours were well-attended, and now, in the Undercroft, the Tour Guild will meet to review the summer efforts and decide whether to establish regular tour times throughout the year. It will always be possible to request special tour times through the church website.

At times, Trinity's History Ministry finds itself acting as a quick response team. For example, on July 4th, 2015

about ten of our members responded to the last minute call to attend the re-dedication by the Daughters of the American Revolution of the retrieved plaque that had been stolen from the front of 91 Church Street! The plaque commemorates the attendance by George Washington at services at Trinity's first church building. Indeed, Church Street is so named because of Trinity's first building location! Go take a look: Our history is always surprising us!



Celebrating The Bicentennial Of This Longstanding Pillar of Community

By Barbara Lamb

The year was 1816 and the fledging United States had only recently ended a second war with Great Britain in the relatively short span of this young nation. In New Haven, great physical changes were afoot with the recent creation of Grove Street Cemetery, allowing for the removal of early settlers' graves from the Green, the cutting through of Temple Street and the construction of what became the City's three signature churches on that coveted space.

It was an historic time, with the separation of church and state and a loosening of the Puritan on the government that now allowed for New Haven's quietly established Church of England representative – Trinity Episcopal Church – to share center stage in a prominent position on the New Haven Green. The

cornerstone was laid on May 17, 1814 and the "Gothik Second Church", as it was then known, was formally dedicated and consecrated on February 21, 1816 by Bishop John Henry Hobart of New York.

Now, two hundred years later, this long-standing pillar of the community cordially invites you to a celebration of its anniversary on the New Haven Green. On Sunday, February 21, 2016 Trinity Episcopal Church on-the-Green invites its neighbors and community leaders to join with them and the Bishop of Connecticut, the Rt Reverend Laura Ahrens at 10 am for a service and celebration of the 1816 consecration of our Trinity Church building.



200 Years Trinity On The Green Calendar

Sunday January 17, 5PM, Trinity Church
Opening Inter-faith Ceremony of the bicentennial celebration

Sunday January 24, 5PM, Trinity Church
Choral Opening of the bicentennial celebration with special Epiphany Lessons and Carols celebration, including choirs of Trinity Church, St. Thomas, and the Episcopal Church at Yale

Sunday February 21, 10AM, Trinity Church
Commemoration Celebration of Trinity Church's Consecration

Saturday April 23, 6PM Graduate Club, 8PM Trinity Church
Triumph of Tolerance, A Musical Celebration Featuring Orchestra New England and the Trinity Episcopal Church Choirs

Sunday May 29: Trinity Church
*Trinity Choir Alumnae Day**

Friday June 3, 5PM (2PM optional), Light House Carousel
Carousel Gala Picnic

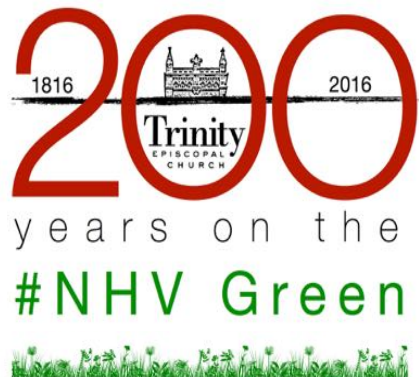
Saturday September 10: Trinity Neighborhood Street Dinner*
Open Table on the Green: Connecting With Our Neighbors

October 2016, Trinity Church
The Gothic Church Special Exhibit: A Large Look into a Small Print of Trinity Church

Sunday November 6, 2PM, Chapel on the Green
Chapel on the Green festive reunion with all Chapel on the Green partners

* to be confirmed

trinitynewhaven.org



Contact Us

Come and Join Our Teams and Events

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trinitynewhaven.org/properties-committee

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Private Drawing
Trinity Episcopal
Church on the Green

TRINITY ON THE GREEN

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Contact:

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The Rev. Rowena Kemp, Assistant Rector

rkemp@trinitynewhaven.org

STILL SMALL VOICE OCTOBER 2015

Donation To Our Building

Maintaining our building cannot without your help. We are very grateful for every donation to support the preservation of our church as national historic landmark.

Please contact our treasurer, David Soper, or our parish administrator, Sherrill Farkas, for more detailed information.