

# The Trinity Voice

PARISH, VESTRY, CLERGY SINCE 1698

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## BUDGET BALANCING CAUSES STAFF REDUCTIONS

In a story common to all branches of government and the private sector, Trinity Church has had to reduce staff costs to balance our budget. In a letter sent to all parishioners on December 9<sup>th</sup>, the changes to be implemented in the months ahead were announced. The letter was presented at a Parish meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>, where the Vestry explained the details and the reasons for the cuts, along with expected effects. A spirited discussion ensued. Summaries of the letter and the Parish meeting follow. *(continued on page 2, Staff Cuts)*

## STEWARDSHIP 2010 IS 26% SHORT OF GOAL

In the month of December \$26,750 was received from 24 more parish households. It is encouraging to note that the majority of these increased their pledges from last year. To date, pledge cards totaling \$222,750 have been returned by 125 of Trinity Church's parish households (average \$1782 per pledge). Trinity Church remains \$77,250 short of achieving its goal of \$300,000. A major cause of this shortfall is the fact that a number of loyal parishioners that have been faithful supporters in past years have not submitted their pledge cards for the New Year. *(continued on page 3-Stewardship)*

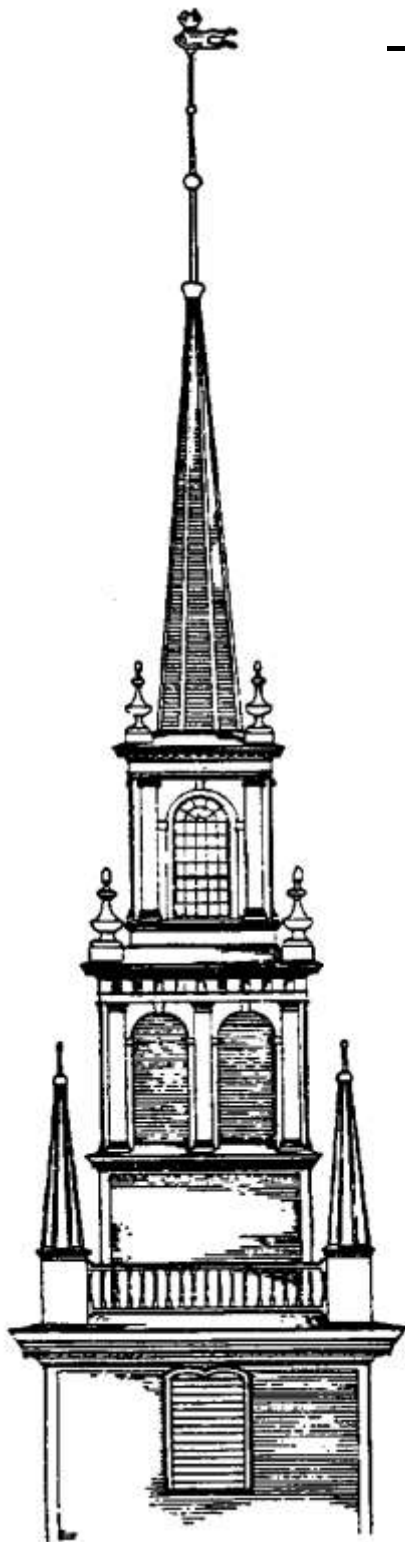
## RECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The Search Committee has been very active and has completed video interviews with a number of candidates. We will begin to invite some of these candidates to visit Newport in January for more lengthy interviews, and then we will plan to visit in their home parishes of two or three "finalists." The committee is hopeful that the process will be completed by March. *Steve Rous, mrous@cox.net*

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*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



***(Staff Cuts continued from page 1)***

Cost saving reductions were made last year to bring the 2009 year budget nearly into balance. These included unpaid leave of absence for the Interim Rector, adjustments in staff hours, and reductions in expense and operating items. For 2010 and out-years a 5-Year plan was developed, with balanced budgets forecast by the end of this year. Expenses and staffing were investigated and compared with other Episcopal Churches in the area. The measures taken by the Vestry bring Trinity into line with costs typical at these other churches. Much of the cost savings will result from reclassifying full-time personnel to part-time with fewer hours, with resultant reduction in expenses for benefits. Fewer hours necessarily means fewer tasks can be accomplished. Job descriptions have been written for each of the staff positions, and a priority order established for what is to be completed in the time available. Volunteers will be needed to pick up the rest of these tasks.

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> Patrick Sheehan will be available for only 19 hours per week. His first priorities will be safety and security, with cleaning and other duties as time allows. It was noted that his hours had grown over time as more and more tasks were assigned to him. Other churches of similar size manage with part time sextons, with volunteers filling in. The Vestry has prepared a job description with list of duties, and will be making requests for volunteers for specific tasks. Patrick will continue to be available for weddings and funerals (on a separately paid basis?).

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, Tom Erb's paid position as Artistic Director will be eliminated. Tom will remain as a volunteer and continue to work with the Youth Troupe, but the time he devotes to Trinity events will necessarily be reduced. Elaine Burress stated that the position of the Vestry is that the MOA is a most important ministry enjoyed by all, but the cost of a paid director could not be afforded.

Effective March 31<sup>st</sup>, Marie Maquire's full-time position as Parish Administrator will be replaced by two 19-hour part time positions, the first a Parish Assistant, and the second a Bookkeeper. During the parish meeting discussions Marie received strong support as the engine that drives the day to day operations of church. Our new Rector will need support, as he/she assumes new duties. Many of her day to day activities will have to be taken over by volunteers. For instance, Vestry member Richard Long suggested that he could handle most of the property related inspections, and estimates for work. The importance of having a trained bookkeeper was noted. Well organized financial records with regular and accurate reports of cash flow and forecasts are key to staying within the new Five-Year plan budgets.

As a preface to the "hopeful" parish meeting Paul Koumrian held an interactive discussion about "Hope—the Serious Business of the Church". The Adult Education Class has discussed this topic. He asked the meeting attendees to identify items within their relationship with Trinity where they find hope. Briefly, the following comments were offered: appreciation for the new choirmaster and his new approach to our music, understanding of the church problems by the Interim and Associate Rectors and how they "talk to us", the superb outreach TLC program and how it has touched so many people, leadership and the open relationship with the Interim Rector as we work through hard times, the transparency provided in the quarterly ministry reviews, the wonderful presentations of the Ministry of Arts, and finally a recently returned parishioner stated that she was grateful that Trinity has been "continuity forever" in her life as she has left and then came back to Newport several times.

### ***Stewardship-continued from page 1***

Some of these latest pledges were the results of parishioner contacts and home visits by our volunteer stewardship canvassers. These hard working volunteers have been contacting parishioners that have not pledged in recent years as well as loyal supporters.

A second stewardship letter has recently been sent those loyal parish households that have not yet submitted their pledge card. They were reminded of the importance of their support particularly as we proceed along the process of searching for and selecting a new rector. The letter asked them to make the commitment that former Trinity Church parishioners have made throughout our church's three hundred year history in order to enable our Trinity Church to minister to its congregation and those in need. We need to demonstrate to the candidate selected to be our new rector that our church and our members are committed both spiritually and financially to maintain Trinity Church's distinctive heritage as one of the earliest American congregations of Anglican - Episcopal faith into the future.

*Brian O'Malley, bromal05@gmail.com*

## **TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION**

Trinity's annual 12th Night Party will be Sunday night, January 10, from 6 to 8 pm at 11 Redwood Street, Newport. Norey Cullen will be our hostess. All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend the fun-filled evening.

Please sign up in Honyman Hall, call Marie in the office (846-0660) or me (619-4603) so we can plan the food and wine. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre for our bountiful table. Most importantly bring yourselves and your party spirit.

Last year we had a fabulous turn-out and a wonderful time so mark your calendars and come!!

*Cynthia O'Malley, cyomalley@gmail.com, 619-4603*

The following research about 12<sup>th</sup> Night came from Wikipedia, and while interesting is not claimed to be fully verified.

**Twelfth Night** or **Epiphany Eve** is a festival in some branches of Christianity marking the coming of the Epiphany, and concluding the Twelve Days of Christmas. It is defined by the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* as "the evening of the fifth of January, preceding Twelfth Day, the eve of the Epiphany, formerly the last day of the Christmas festivities and observed as a time of merrymaking".<sup>[1]</sup>

The celebration of Epiphany, the adoration of the Magi, is marked in some cultures by the exchange of gifts, and Twelfth Night, as the eve or vigil of Epiphany, takes on a similar significance to Christmas Eve.

A more recent tradition in some English-speaking countries holds that it is unlucky to leave Christmas decorations hanging after Twelfth Night, a belief originally attached to the festival of Candlemas (2 February).

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**Origins and history**In Tudor England, the Twelfth Night marked the end of a winter festival that started on All Hallows Eve — now more commonly known as Halloween. The Lord of Misrule symbolizes the world turning upside down. On this day the King and all those who were high would become the peasants

and vice versa. At the beginning of the twelfth night festival a cake which contained a bean was eaten. The person who found the bean would run the feast. Midnight signaled the end of his rule and the world would return to normal. The common theme was that the normal order of things was reversed. This Lord of Misrule tradition can be traced to pre-Christian *European festivals such as the Celtic festival of Samhain and the Ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia.*<sup>1</sup>

### ***Traditions***

A Portuguese Bolo-Rei, or King Cake. This size, approx. 50 cm diameter, usually serves 8 people. This pastry is just one of the many types baked around the world for celebrations during the Twelve Days of Christmas and Twelfth Night.

Food and drink are the center of the celebrations in modern times, and all of the most traditional ones go back many centuries. The punch called wassail is consumed especially on Twelfth Night, but throughout Christmas time, especially in the UK. Around the world, special pastries, such as the tortell and king cake are baked on Twelfth Night, and eaten the following day for the Feast of the Epiphany celebrations. In English and French custom, the Twelfth-cake was baked to contain a bean and a pea, so that those who received the slices containing them should be designated king and queen of the night's festivities.

In colonial America, a Christmas wreath was always left up on the front door of each home, and when taken down at the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas, any edible portions would be consumed with the other foods of the feast. The same held true in the 1800s - 1900s with fruits adorning Christmas trees. Fresh fruits were hard to come by, and were therefore considered fine and proper gifts and decorations for the tree, wreaths, and home. Again, the tree would be taken down on Twelfth Night, and such fruits, along with nuts and other local produce used, would then be consumed.

In the eastern Alps, a tradition called *Berchtenlaufen* exists. Two to three hundred masked young men rush about the streets with whips and bells driving out evil spirits.<sup>[3]</sup> In Nuremberg until 1616, children frightened spirits away by running through the streets and knocking loudly at doors.<sup>[3]</sup> In some countries, and in the Catholic religion worldwide, the Twelfth Night and Epiphany mark the start of the Carnival season, which lasts through Mardi Gras Day.

## **CHRISTMAS OUTREACH**

### **GIVING TREE**

Gifts for 95 children were delivered to Project Head Start on Tuesday December 22 to be given to children to open on Christmas Day. Please pray for the children you have chosen.  
*Merry Christmas and warmest thanks from the children and families of Head Start.*

### **GIFTS FOR TEENS**

Kate Lengyel and the Trinity Youth Group collected enough money during morning coffee hours to provide Gifts for thirty-five teens at the MET School, Lucy's Hearth and East Bay Community Action. Thanks to all who contributed  
*Kate Lengyel, ktsluginthemusic@hotmail.com*

## **STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS**

More than 100 Stockings were stuffed for soldiers in Afghanistan with the Army 82nd Airborne. George and Anne Oliver's son-in-law is the company commander. They were sent off in time to reach our men and women by Christmas. We are sure that they will greatly appreciate and enjoy this greeting from Trinity.

God Bless you all for your generous contributions!

Anne Oliver, tel: 619-0712. email: [oliver323@aol.com](mailto:oliver323@aol.com)

## **Silver Tea gives \$2000 to the General Fund**

The bulk of the income from the 2009 Silver Tea has been given to the General Fund. This was voted at our wrap-up meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We also voted to give \$1000 to the Honyman Hall project.

The Silver Tea was wonderful. The parish women turned out in full force to provide sandwiches and sweets. More than 35 parishioners, male and female, helped decorate the room, staff the kitchen, pour the tea, and serve all those who came in from the pouring rain for food and Christmas cheer. The Hawes Room looked terrific. Peter Chabot was a star waiting on tables, and Mary Johnstone played Christmas Carols to the delight of all.

This tea event is an annual party and next year we hope to see you there. We plan to offer wreaths, both decorated and plain, by pre-registration. So think of buying your wreath and table decorations from Trinity next year beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Joan Wilson, [pondlark@verizon.net](mailto:pondlark@verizon.net), 849-7432

## **Recycle your Christmas centerpiece baskets.**

After Christmas, the Women of Trinity will provide a container in Honyman Hall where baskets with plastic liners can be dropped off to be used again next year. And if you are not going to save your Christmas bow, we can accept them for recycling also. If you have other small Christmas items in perfect condition that you no longer wish to keep, call Joan 849-7432 to see if the Silver Tea can recycle them. This is not a disposal service, so please call before you drop any items off.

Joan Wilson, [pondlark@verizon.net](mailto:pondlark@verizon.net), 849-7432

## **January is Mystery Month**

Remember our book sale last winter? The library ladies are doing it again. Only this year we need your help. Please donate your attractive, gently used, mystery hard cover books to the cause. We will have a box in Honyman Hall for drop offs. Our focus this year is on *mystery books, recently published, in excellent condition*, but we will accept spy thrillers and military adventure recent fiction also. We will dispose of any tattered, yellowed, "old chestnuts" that you may have as well.

Joan Wilson, [pondlark@verizon.net](mailto:pondlark@verizon.net), 849-7432

## VESTRY VACANCIES

The Nominating Committee continues the search to fill the following vacancies on the vestry for next year. Please contact Scott Bartlett, Bruce Livingston, Christian Myers, Pro Lyon or Elaine Burress if you would like to be considered or would like to suggest someone for consideration.

**Assistant Treasurer:** The assistant treasurer is responsible for providing accurate financial reports to the vestry, for overseeing the accuracy of financial reporting made to parishioners, staff and other lay leaders and for performing the audit. The treasurer is responsible for chairing the Finance and Budget Review Committees and for developing a proposed budget for vestry approval.

**Newcomers Assistant Chairman:** The assistant chairman works closely with the chairman and eventually becomes chairman. These two individuals are responsible for establishing a newcomers committee, planning and maintaining processes and procedures for welcoming newcomers to Trinity Church and assisting in their integration into the life of the parish. Coffee hour, greeting, ushering and the nursery fall under the purview of Newcomers Committee. In 2010 this will include working with a consultant to further enhance the Newcomers' Program.

**Governance, Planning and Mutual Ministry Review Chair:** The individual taking on these responsibilities will arrange for mutual ministry reviews of the rector every 6 months, and ensure that action items in the 5-Year Plan are being pursued. In addition, in 2010, this chair will be tasked with gathering together job descriptions for the staff, for the vestry and for updating the Church Procedures Manual.

**Stewardship Chair.** The stewardship chairman will lead the stewardship committee in a year-long stewardship program culminating in the annual pledge campaign.

**Delegates to the Diocesan Convention** are also being sought.

We are looking to fill these positions with people who are committed to assisting the church by filling a vestry position and who have shown themselves able to do so by being active volunteers at this or other churches.

## NEWCOMERS NOTES

We are planning more "**Bring a Friend to Church**" Sundays in the new year. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce your friends to the Trinity community.

The Newcomers Committee is planning events for the winter including the **12th Night Party** and a **Spaghetti Supper and Hymn Sing**.

The **Photo Directory** will be finished until after we have selected our new rector. If you haven't given me your name, please email or phone with how you would like your name printed.

We are looking for volunteers to help us-if you are interested in joining the newcomers committee, please let Heather know!

*Heather de Pinho, innkeeper@samueldurfeehouse.com*

# Trinity Loving Care News

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## **January Coordinators**

**Jackie Hanson—847-5947, [grandjackie@cox.net](mailto:grandjackie@cox.net)**

**and**

**Peter Chabot 847-5006.**

***Please contact them if you need some help.***

## **TRINITY LOVING COMMUNITY**

Nancy and I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. We are filled with gratitude to all of you that have stepped up and volunteered to either be a monthly coordinator or be a volunteer to offer a much needed ride, meal or visit. We have witnessed firsthand how being of service has given the giver a great sense of joy, as they “pay it forward.” Many recipients of our assistance have told us how appreciative they are of your time and talents. During the short nine months TLC has been organized, we have fine tuned this ministry, as concerns were raised about how to better deliver our services. Many people have expressed their approval of TLC, and we pray for its continued growth as an important part of Trinity Church in 2010. A big thank to our December coordinators, John Gilmartin and Sid Gorham.

May you find peace, health and joy in the New Year

*Nancy Bredbeck, and Wendy Durodogan TLC Facilitators, [tlc@trinitynewport.org](mailto:tlc@trinitynewport.org)*

Happy Birthday to the 33 members of our parish family born in January...and the winners are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with three celebrants. We had one New Years Baby!

|                     |    |                      |    |
|---------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Stanley Brown       | 1  | Ruth Stokes          | 16 |
| Gabriel Wicheins    | 2  | Sidney Gorham        | 16 |
| Patricia Fernandez  | 2  | Neil Porter          | 17 |
| Jennifer Shore      | 3  | Kristiana Moore      | 18 |
| Richard Long        | 3  | Alexandra Tiedermann | 19 |
| Kari Reardon        | 5  | Whitney Friedrich    | 21 |
| Melvin Hill         | 6  | Cornelius Moriarty   | 22 |
| Jonathan Blake      | 7  | Virginia Long        | 22 |
| Morgan Brown        | 7  | Cynthia O'Malley     | 23 |
| John Sheehan        | 8  | Roseanne Ouellette   | 26 |
| Helenmary Lauth     | 10 | Marlee Brown         | 28 |
| Joan Wilson         | 10 | Hazel Peters         | 30 |
| Margaret Stapleton  | 10 | Kaitlyn Lengyel      | 30 |
| Virginia Beltz      | 11 | Olivia Peters        | 30 |
| Barbara E. Crockett | 12 | Frank Seaforth       | 31 |
| Deborah Lengyel     | 14 | Kirtley Fisher       | 31 |
| Nory Whitaker       | 14 |                      |    |



## JANUARY EVENTS

**January 10, Twelfth Night celebration,** Please sign up in Honyman Hall, call Marie in the office (846-0660) or Cynthia O'Malley (619-4603)

**Mystery Book sale—date to be announced**

**Christmas center piece basket recycles- return any time**

**(No other notices of January events were received by press time.)**

## Trinity Short Notes

**TRINITY'S SOUP KITCHEN**--Food donations, servers, cooks and shoppers are needed. Contact Meryl Moore, [jmoore310@cox.net](mailto:jmoore310@cox.net), 846-4835

**Columbarium Update**-- Four more parishioners are needed for Columbarium in the church yard, in order for us to start construction. If interested contact *Richard Long*, 847-3131, or *Stephen Rous*, 848-9245.

**New England Landscaping** has generously donated snow plowing and lawn mowing services to Trinity, saving us a large expense. During the big snow storm before Christmas we hope you called them at 401-258-1236 for your snow removal needs.

**Newport Stagecraft** donates lights, and sound equipment for Ministry of Arts Shows as well as the video installation for last months showing of the Wizard of Oz. Please call them at 401-849-9590 for your audio-visual needs.

**Tax Preparation and Advice**--Bob Lobecker will prepare income tax returns and offer tax advice under the AARP Tax Aide Program. AARP tax preparers are well trained and certified. The service is free to all parishioners, of any age. A schedule will be set up for at least one day a week beginning in February, and will run through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Start gathering your tax records now.

**HOME HANDYMAN**-- Ed Young has offered to help or provide advice about small handyman type jobs around the house. These might include minor repairs, heat efficiency insulation, lock lubrication, or advice on professional help.

**Tower Bell Ringers Needed**—Brent Erstad would like to bring back the tradition of five o'clock daily ringing of the tower bells. Please contact him if you would like to ring.

***Greener Pastures Landscaping Services.*** *Sexton Patrick Sheehan is now offering a full line of landscaping services. He will do hedges, gardening, pruning, and lawn care, and other general clean up services. Several parishioners have used had him do work and recommend him to you. Call Patrick at 847-6267*

### E.Mail and Letters to the Editor

Dear Bob:

Thank you so much for my e-Voice. Much though I love St. John's in Cold Spring Harbor, NY, I still have such fond memories of Trinity and take secret satisfaction in knowing that some of the things I did there, particularly with the Altar Society, live on after me. Silly, I know, but true. It makes me happy to think a part of me is still there, not only in my heart but in my hands.

I was particularly happy to read that the Search is really getting some meat on the bones. St. J's has a relatively new Rector, a young man named David Ware. He is absolute dynamite. He and his great help-meet wife and little girl have added so much to the depth of meaning of the church experience. And the active congregation has grown to the point where we are busting out of the church, literally. He is an innovative young man (46) and has won the hearts, minds, and hands of all. I truly pray the same sort of good fortune comes Trinity's way. No matter how good an Interim is, it just is not the same and a church suffers for that when it drags on forever, seemingly. Just wanted you to know your e efforts are appreciated.

*Iris Field*, [sirifield@optoonline.net](mailto:sirifield@optoonline.net)

***DIRECTORY  
OF  
MINISTRY and COMMITTEE LEADERS***

Acolytes, Larry Pulice, 849-4557  
Coffee Hour, Anne Oliver, [oliver323@aol.com](mailto:oliver323@aol.com)  
Choir, Steve Parfet, [parflaza@aol.com](mailto:parflaza@aol.com), and Connie Andrews, [cdyandrews@verizon.net](mailto:cdyandrews@verizon.net)  
Christian Formation, Debby Lengyel, [debby@wedgededge.com](mailto:debby@wedgededge.com)  
Columbarium, Steve Rous, [Stephen.n.rous@dartmouth.edu](mailto:Stephen.n.rous@dartmouth.edu)  
Communications Committee, Richard Alexander, [rkalexander1@cox.net](mailto:rkalexander1@cox.net)  
Diocese Canon for Congregations and Clergy, Betsey Fornel, [betsy@episcopalri.org](mailto:betsy@episcopalri.org)  
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Episcopal Charities, Christian Myers, [myerscw@cox.net](mailto:myerscw@cox.net)  
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Tower Club, Cynthia O'Malley, [cyomalley@gmail.com](mailto:cyomalley@gmail.com)  
Trinity Book Group, Leader needed?  
Trinity Loving Community (TLC), Nancy Bredbeck and Wendy Durudogan, Facilitators, [tlc@trinitynewport.org](mailto:tlc@trinitynewport.org)  
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Women of Trinity, Joan Bartram, Mary Lyon, or Margot Rous  
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Youth Leader and Vestry representative, Kate Lengyel, [ktsluginthemusic@hotmail.com](mailto:ktsluginthemusic@hotmail.com)

## **DIRECTORY**

### **STAFF**

**The Rev'd W. David Dobbins, *Interim Rector***

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**Mary Sinnott, *Altar Society Directress***

*msinnott3@cox.net*

**Professor John B. Hattendorf, *Trinity Church Historian***

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**Kate Lengyel-Youth Group Rep.**

*ktsluvintthemusic@hotmail.co*

### **Address for mail**

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Queen Anne Square  
Newport, RI 02840

### **Contact Information**

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Web site—[www.TrinityNewport.org](http://www.TrinityNewport.org)  
General email—[mm@TrinityNewport.org](mailto:mm@TrinityNewport.org)  
E-Tower-[elaineburres@cox.net](mailto:elaineburres@cox.net)  
Voice—[lobecker@aol.com](mailto:lobecker@aol.com)

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**Deadline for the February issue is Monday January 25th.**

Please e-mail articles, notes, schedule items or letters to  
*Lobecker@aol.com*

If your e-mail submission is not acknowledged within three days, please resend it because it may not have been received. Thank you!