

## Pollinator Festival At Trinity Episcopal

Saturday saw the culmination of months of planning and collaboration among AHNA Board member Carol Padberg, Trinity Academy and Trinity Episcopal Church along with Knox Inc. to produce the First Annual Pollinator Festival in Asylum Hill.

You may already be aware that pollinators are mostly flying insects along with select birds that for millions of years have been feeding on the nectar of most of the flowering plants and in the process distributing their pollen from one plant to another that allows countless fruits and vegetables to grow and reproduce.

You may also be aware that some of our human habits are threatening their existence, which in turn might threaten

ours. Chances are you have not paid near enough attention to this reality, which is why we needed a Pollinator Festival. Fortunately, we had one and it was a great success.

As is often the case, hope for the future rests with children, and so they were the main audience for the Festival. The rest of us were just lucky to be there.

The venue was the beautiful garden on the north side of Trinity's main sanctuary. It has lots of beautiful flowers and lent a peaceful air to the event.

The theme was reinforced with butterfly wings capes as illustrated above, and also honey tasting from four different sources. There were bees wax sheets to make candles and flowers to be pressed and lots of little things to learn about and play with. All these interesting activities were guided by Emily Petersen and Lauren Little of Gaia's Guides, a Hartford-based ecological educational initiative housed at KNOX, Inc. They even brought along "Bo Bee" a child sized huggable bumble bee to share the love.

But the most exciting seemed to be the loom where anyone who wanted could help weave a meditation shawl to be kept with the garden venue.

The festival included face painting by Joy Monroe, Steel drumming by Michael Edwards, and later by the duo of Margaux and Rich Hayes. Free books came from Hartford Public Library's Michelle McFarland, free food included breakfast sandwiches made by Louisa Barton Duguay from Grace Lutheran Church and later pasta & veggies prepared on site by chef Ricardo McDonald. The veggies were grown in a garden by children, so they were extra tasty.

There were lots of photos taken as there was so much happening and many of them are available at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/MRdwS7ggRy4a96aU7>

