

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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Worship Services

- Sundays - 9 am
Holy Eucharist
- Wednesdays - 8 am
Morning Prayer

Bible Studies

- Thursdays - 10:30 am
Bishop Seabury Room
- Third Sundays - 10:30 am
Bishop Seabury Room
"Growing in Grace" classes
for confirmation, reception,
reaffirmation and renewal
of faith



The Little Engine That Could

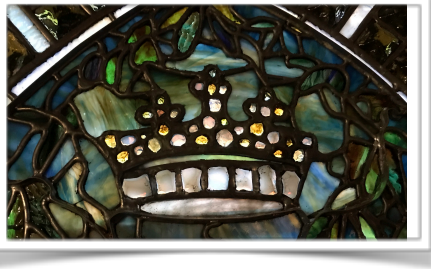
A couple of months ago I said to Father Tom Furrer that Trinity was beginning to remind me of Watty Piper's children's story, *The Little Engine That Could*.

You remember that story – there was a long, high hill and a little engine had been called upon to take a large train up that hill. All the way up the little engine puffed, "I think I can, I think I can." That's how I see Trinity right now: still climbing a long hill but saying together, "We think we can, we think we can!"

Just a year ago the vestry and leadership of Trinity Parish were wondering what the future would have for us. Should we continue on as a parish? Close our doors? Look for someone to merge with?

We had just had a major parish meeting at which we assessed seriously whether we could continue on another year or more without a rector. At that meeting we made a decision to continue on as Trinity Parish and to be as strong and vibrant a

(continued on next page)



Clergy Schedule

December 2018

- 2 - Advent 1
The Rt. Rev. Gordon Scruton
- 9 - Advent 2
The Rev. Valerie Miller
- 16 - Advent 3
The Rev. Thomas Furrer
- 23 - Advent 4
The Rev. Thomas Furrer
- 24 - Christmas Eve
The Rev. Thomas Furrer
- 25 - Christmas Day
The Rev. Judith Alexis
- 30 - First Sunday after
Christmas
The Rev. Judith Alexis

January 2019

- 6 - The Epiphany
The Rev. Valerie Miller
- 13 - First Sunday after the
Epiphany
The Rev. Thomas Furrer
- 20 - Second Sunday after
The Epiphany
The Rev. Thomas Furrer
- 27 - Third Sunday after
the Epiphany
The Rev. Judith Alexis

The Little Engine That Could (*continued from page 1*)

parish as we could be.

We felt that one way to help achieve that goal we was to move to a single service on Sunday mornings, a decision which has had wonderful ramifications throughout this last year. We have become so much more of a family with old and artificial divisions falling by the side.

And we have grown, welcoming many new members who have quickly become part of the parish, adding so much to our Trinity life.

In that process we have become so much more aware of the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we make our journey as a parish. We don't know what the future holds – we can't know – but we can move forward with a sure sense of having a guide.

Like that little engine that could we are still on our way up that long hill. We have much of our journey before us, but now we are saying not only, "We think we can," but also, with God's grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, "We're sure we can."

May we all have a peaceful and holy Advent and Christmas seasons.

Lay Ministry Schedule

December 2

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	S. Basile
Lector	C. Helfant
Intercessor	C. Chadsey
Ushers	M. Kucka & D. Paternostro
Closer	D. Paternostro
Counters	R. Riley & C. Harasymiw

December 9

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	R. Colburn
Lector	M. Koehler
Intercessor	J. Shaw
Ushers	M. Kucka & D. Paternostro
Closer	K. Cole
Counters	N. Knapp & D. Paternostro

December 16

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	C. Jones
Lector	G. Smith
Intercessor	D. Paternostro
Ushers	M. Kucka & D. Paternostro
Closer	R. Reilly
Counters	G. Myers & D. Zarillo

December 23

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	J. Joseph
Lector	G. Lehman
Intercessor	C. Chadsey
Ushers	M. Kucka & C. Chadsey
Closer	D. Paternostro
Counters	L. Jones & C. Tomlinson

December 30

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	D. Paternostro
Lector	P. Milne
Intercessor	K. Cole
Ushers	M. Kucka & C. Chadsey
Closer	K. Cole
Counters	L. Jones & C. Tomlinson

Belfry Editor

Do you remember our parish prayer where we ask God, "...send us the people we need in order to become the church you want us to be"?

Last December, as Ed Zagorski dealt with what would be his final illness, Trinity found itself in need of an editor for *The Belfry*. As happens frequently at Trinity, one of our newcomers stepped up and said he would fill the job. That newcomer was Michael Kucka and many of you have come to know him over the last year. Mike has taken on a number of additional roles at Trinity and it is time for *The Belfry* to find another editor. Leslie Jones, yet another one of our newcomers, has offered to be our new editor.

How very blessed we are, not just to have the people that we need with skills and capabilities, but to have them so willing to step in to new roles. Please say thank you to Michael for his editorship of the Belfry in the last year and welcome Leslie on board as our new editor.



Parish Leadership

PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. Thomas Furrer

OFFICE

Kathy Cole, Administrator

Tuesday-Thursday, 9-2

860-529-6825

operations@

trinityepiscopalweth.org

VESTRY

Warren Blessing

Donna Brown

Ray Colburn

Robert Heath, Treasurer

Carol Jones, Clerk

Garth Meyer

Diane Paternostro, Warden

Rose Riley, Warden

Judith Shaw

Jerry Stavola

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

BOOT PARTY - This annual event serves the needs of 600 homeless and disenfranchised people in Greater Hartford. This year it's being held on December 8 at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. Guests will receive foot care, socks, new sturdy boots and personal care packages. Trinity has been collecting personal care packages for this event. We currently have 13 care packages and \$150 in donations so that we can buy items for additional care packages. Thank you for your ongoing generosity! If you would like to volunteer at the Boot Party or for more information, please contact the Rev. Bonnie Matthews, deacon, at bmatthews228@comcast.net or speak with Warren Blessing or Rose Riley.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM - Sundays, December 2 and December 9. Trinity Parish has provided toys and gift cards to children in the Greater Hartford area for many years. We will take these gifts to South Park Inn and to Wethersfield Social Services so that those less fortunate will have a joyous holiday season. There are nine boys and three girls (ages 3-14) staying at South Park Inn. On either Sunday, please bring new, safe, nonviolent and unwrapped toys with gift cards and place them around the Baptismal Font. Suggestions include books, games, dolls, cars, trucks, stuffed animals, and gift cards for teenagers. The teens in Wethersfield like gift cards from Kohl's, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Target, Walmart, and Amazon. They should be in smaller denominations (no more than \$25). For more information, call Donna Brown at 860-563-2129.

FRIENDLY SHOPPER AND FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAMS - Wethersfield Social Services coordinates and supervises the Friendly Shopper and Friendly Visitor programs which serve homebound seniors. Friendly Shoppers do grocery shopping for those who need assistance and Friendly Visitors provide social contact and a friendly face to visit on a regular basis. This is a wonderful opportunity to help Wethersfield residents who are housebound. This program does require a time commitment, but two people can sign up as a team and take turns shopping and visiting. Brochures and contact information will be available at the back of the church and on the Outreach Table in the Parish Hall or call Rose Riley 860-721-0547 for more information.

HANDS ON HARTFORD - Donna Manocchio, chair of the board of directors, sent the following thank you note: "Dear Trinity Episcopal, what a marvelous thing you have done! Holding the Chili and Rice & Beans Cook-Off and donating the proceeds to Hands on Hartford is such an act of generosity and grace. Please know that your generous contribution goes immediately to provide food for families who use our pantry and healthy snacks in our children's backpack program. You have made a difference in the lives of our Hartford neighbors!"

GOLDEN OLDIES CONCERT - A big thank you to Sal Basile and his partner, Dave, for providing a wonderful evening of music. We had a large crowd, people had fun dancing and singing, and the proceeds were donated to the Outreach Committee for distribution.

THANKSGIVING DINNER COLLECTION - Thank you to our parishioners who supported this Wethersfield Social Services program for people who need assistance. Joan and Greg Joseph kindly delivered the food and thanks!

DINING FOR DOLLARS WITH BERTUCCI'S - We need a coordinator to get more information and set this up. A portion of the proceeds comes back to our church. If interested, please contact Rose Riley or Marilyn Ford.

WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK - The Hunger Action Team has notified us that one out of every five people in Wethersfield are hungry. Canned pasta, rice, cans of chunk chicken, jelly (plastic cans or bottles), peanut butter, tuna in water, cans of fruit in 100% juice, low sodium soups, pasta sauce, no-salt-added canned vegetables, granola bars, fresh produce, cereal, toilet paper, personal hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothpaste).

SOUTH PARK INN - Please place donations for this Hartford shelter in the box in the Parish Hall. Always needed are women's undergarments (tops and bottoms, all sizes), foot powder, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotions, spray deodorant, feminine hygiene products, diapers, laundry soap, cleaning supplies, towels, pillow cases, twin flat and fitted sheets.

SYRIAN FAMILY IN WETHERSFIELD - Thank you for your generosity in providing food and supplies. They now need only the following items: paper towels, laundry detergent, dish detergent, liquid hand soap, queen size sheets and pillow cases.

A SPECIAL THANKS

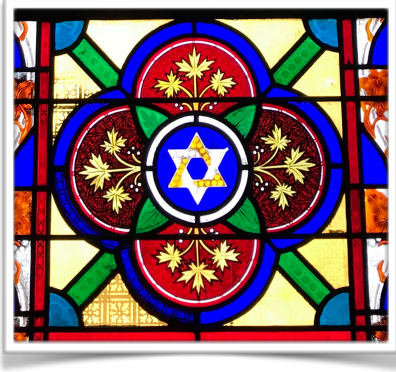
*As 2018 comes to a close, the Outreach Committee sends sincere thanks for your generosity in helping those less fortunate locally, regionally, and worldwide. Together we make a difference!
2018 has once again shown that Trinity is a GIVING CHURCH!*

Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair



Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair is over for another year. We would like to thank everyone who helped set up, take down, baked, manned a table or just came and met friends and purchased. As always it was a wonderful expression of Trinity community spirit. We have had the suggestion of playing Christmas music to make it even better next year. If anyone has additional suggestions, please send them on to Rose or Connie.

This is the third year that we received beautiful poinsettias from Robert A. Prill. Robert is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in town and is Horticulturist Emeritus at Elizabeth Park. He approached us three years ago with a donation of wonderful designer poinsettias and his plant table has come to be a much anticipated addition to our fair. Trinity thanks him for his kindness in remembering us each year.



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 1

Advent Quiet Day: Engaging the Senses, Opening to God

DECEMBER 16

Growing in Grace Class, Church history and Episcopal/Anglican identity

DECEMBER 23

Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols at 9 am service

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve service, 4 pm

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day service, 10 am

JANUARY 8

Evening Book Club, 5:45 pm in the home of Barbara Rowley. The selection is *White Houses* by Amy Bloom. Snow date is January 9.

JANUARY 14

Morning Book Club, 10:30 am, location TBA. The selection is *Still Life* by Louise Penny.

Financial Report

Pledge Status as of 10/31/2018

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 80,845
Pledge Budget	\$ 67,371
Received	\$ 76,058
Difference	+ \$ 8,687

Income/Expenses as of 10/31/2018

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 92,780	\$ 98,341
Expenses	\$113,282	\$110,187

Nothing transferred from investments to cover 2018 expenses as of 10/31/2018.

Pledge Update

On Ingathering Sunday (November 18) we had a wonderful service at which many of us were able to bring our pledges to the altar to offer them to our Lord. We received 45 pledges which is an excellent number to receive on Ingathering Sunday.

It's too early for an update on dollars but how wonderful to have had so many people take the step of committing part of their financial blessings to God.

Property Committee Update

Last month we mentioned that new suspended ceilings and lights were to be installed in the Parish Hall and other rooms close by. You will have seen activities going on as we get ready. The folding doors are down, a dumpster will be in the parking lot behind the garage, old tiles will be stripped. The majority of work will be in January when old lights come down and the new ceiling installers will be onsite for a week or two.

We are trying to stage and plan the work around times when the Parish Hall and other rooms are less busy. Hopefully we will have everything complete so disruption is kept to a minimum.

If anyone has questions, please ask any member of the Property Committee or me, Warren Blessing.

Choir Music

Christmas is a great time to join the choir! Our schedule:

- Dec. 2 Rehearsal immediately after service
- Dec. 9 Anthem: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
Rehearsal immediately after service
- Dec. 23 Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols
Anthems: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
"Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabella"
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service at 4 pm preceded by
a carol sing at 3:30 pm
Anthem: "Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabella"

Beginning in February we hope to have a monthly "Choir Sunday" on the third Sunday. Rehearsal will be on the second Sunday immediately after service. Contact the office if you think you would like to sing. A member of the Music Committee will contact you. Come sing with us!



Christmas Flowers



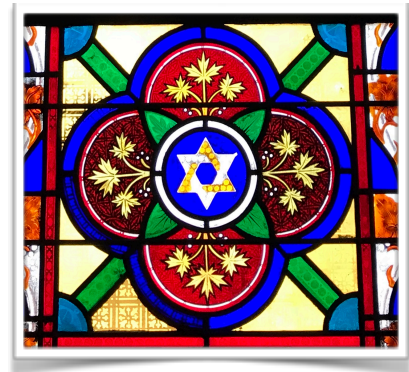
Please consider a donation for Christmas flowers. We gratefully accept any amount you choose to give; we suggest a donation of \$50.

Please make your check payable to "Trinity Parish" and write "Flower Fund" on the memo line. The deadline is December 18. Please indicate (M) for memorial or (T) for living thanksgiving on the line below.

Name(s): _____

Given by: _____

You may mail your check to: Trinity Parish, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109; bring your check to the office Tuesday-Thursday between 9 am and noon; or include it with your Sunday contribution.



Christmas Pageant

Calling all parents, children and grandchildren to participate in our annual Christmas pageant to be performed at the 4 pm service on December 24. No thespian experience necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Paternostro.

Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 23 (the Sunday just before Christmas), we will celebrate a Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols at the 9 o'clock service. The lessons and carols will replace the first part of the service (prior to the Peace) and will consist of a series of readings, anthems sung by the choir, and Christmas carols sung by the congregation.

Please invite friends and family to this festive service. It will be followed by a festive coffee hour!



Trinity Men's Club enjoying a UCONN game in November.

A Prayer for Parish Mission

Dear and gracious God,

Please send us the people we need in order to become the church You want us to be, and please send us the people who need us in order to become the people You want them to be. Help us to respond with love to those You send, making room for them at our table and in our hearts so that together we can share Your love with our neighbors in need both locally and around the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who met people where they were, loved and cared for them, and invited them into a deeper relationship with You. *AMEN*

The Belfry

Trinity Episcopal Church

300 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109



The Belfry

The Belfry is a monthly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main, Wethersfield, CT 06109. Send items for the next publication to lesliejonesie@gmail.com by December 23.

If you prefer to receive The Belfry by email, please contact the office at operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org or 860-529-6825.