

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
beginning January 10

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



Trinity's Christmas Gifts

By Rose Riley and Denise Paternostro, Wardens

Did you receive a lot of Christmas presents this year? Trinity did! Think of the things that have happened in just the last couple of months in this church.

In October we had a wonderful stewardship meeting and our generous parish family increased overall pledge income by 27%.

We had eight new members join us this last year, some of those in the last couple of months.

Last December our choir had dwindled to three members. This year we were able to have Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve services with ten choir members and several talented musicians.

In December the vestry passed a balanced budget. This means we will not have to withdraw from our savings for day-to-day expenses for the first time in over a decade.

And finally, on January 1st, Father Tom Furrer will be joining us as our new pastor. What joyous news!

But while these are all wonderful gifts, even more important are the gifts of the Spirit that we have received not only at this Christmas time but throughout the year. What a deeper appreciation of the words of the Lord have Trinity members come to know through our many Christian education classes. What fellowship have we



Trinity's Christmas Gifts (continued from page 1)

Clergy Schedule

January 2019

6 - The Epiphany
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

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

February 2019

3 - Fourth Sunday after
the Epiphany
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

10 - Fifth Sunday after the
Epiphany
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

17 - Sixth Sunday after
The Epiphany
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

24 - Seventh Sunday after
the Epiphany
The Rev. Julie Mudge

experienced through caring for each other in times of crisis. What love for those around us we have known through the many opportunities for outreach.

We could not have had a better Christmas. The Holy Spirit is working mightily here at Trinity and we feel so incredibly blessed and hope that you do as well.

From Our Pastor

I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:6*

Dear People of Trinity,

I am very grateful to have this opportunity to join the team of servant-hearted leaders here at this wonderful parish. In late December I attended your vestry meeting just to get to know people a little better. We began the meeting with a Bible reflection on a short passage from Philippians, Chapter 1. We each identified a word or phrase that spoke to us. The line above is the phrase that spoke to me, and I have been thinking about it ever since.

As I begin a new chapter of my life with you, and you begin a new chapter of your parish life with me, it is important for all of us to remember that God is the primary mover in our life together. In the passage quoted above, the “he who began a good work in you” is God — not the former pastor or any other human leader. The Holy Spirit has been at work in Trinity since the parish was founded in 1869 and before that as God led people to begin a parish community here. Sometimes the Holy Spirit works in quiet and subtle ways and sometimes in ways that are more noticeable to people with eyes to see. Sometimes the Holy Spirit inspires people to do heroic deeds of faith and service; and sometimes the Holy Spirit leads us in quiet moments of self-awareness and prayer and steadfast dedication to our identity as a Christ-centered community of faith. But the constant truth is that God has been at work in this community of faith before any of us was born. And God will be at work here after we have all left this earthly life.

The main thing to keep in mind is that God has a plan and a purpose for our community of faith here at Trinity. God wants to work through us to live and proclaim and demonstrate the Good News of Jesus Christ, as the Bible says: “God is at work in you both to work and to will for his good pleasure.” *Philippians 2: 13* And, “Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more that we can ask or imagine.” *Ephesians 3:20* And, “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should talk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

I believe that God called me to work with all of you in this season — for a reason. “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil — to give you a future and hope.” *Jeremiah 29: 11* And I believe we should try to figure out, as best we can, how we can cooperate with God’s plan and purpose for us. I have been an ordained priest for 32 years. I have learned a few things in those years about how to preach and teach and reach and motivate people. But honestly, most of what I thought I knew has become irrelevant in the rapidly changing cultural landscape in which we live. The main thing I have learned is **God is the main thing**. And the best thing we can do is learn to listen to and follow God’s lead. So, I hope we can pray together and learn together and walk together and discover together how God wants us to fulfill God’s purpose in our own day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 Father Tom

Lay Ministry Schedule

January 6	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	G. Smith
	Lector	G. Myers
	Intercessor	K. Cole
	Ushers	M. Kucka & C. Chadsey
	Closer	R. Riley
January 13	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	A. Stavola
	Lector	C. Helfant
	Intercessor	C. Chadsey
	Ushers	M. Kucka & J. Stavola
	Closer	D. Paternostro
January 20	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	S. Basile
	Lector	C. Jones
	Intercessor	K. Cole
	Ushers	M. Kucka & Paternostro
	Closer	K. Cole
January 27	Opener	D. Paternostro
	Eucharistic Minister	R. Colburn
	Lector	G. Smith
	Intercessor	D. Paternostro
	Ushers	M. Kucka & Paternostro
	Closer	R. Riley

Parish Leadership

PASTOR
 The Rev. Thomas Furrer

OFFICE
 Kathy Cole, Administrator
 Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12
 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

NOTE: The nominating committee has been busy, faithfully discharging its duty of filling the slate for our Annual Meeting. We are still seeking people who are interested in serving as a delegate or alternate delegates to the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Connecticut. We also will be talking to people about the nominating committee for next year. If you are interested in any of these positions, please talk of any of the following people: Marilyn Ford, Donna Brown, Rebecca Scruton, Connie Harasymiw.



Name Tags and Newcomers

Why do we have name tags? It's not for those in church every week. It's for our visitors and newer members to help them feel more at ease and welcome.

What's the first thing you do when you greet a new person? Introduce yourself. A name tag aids in that. Often we don't hear the name clearly, but are too uncomfortable to ask for clarification. With a name tag, we don't have to.

And while we might be meeting only one visitor, that visitor is meeting a whole church full of people! Lots of names to remember. Name tags help.

Please wear your name tag. We are going to experiment with better ways to store them and make them accessible on Sunday mornings, but for now spend an extra minute to find yours on the rack, put it on and, if you forget to return it after service, there will be a basket in the parish hall for returning name tags.

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM

Thank you to all who provided toys to the Wethersfield Social Services Department through our toy drive. Donna Brown and Marilyn Ford participated in the distribution of the toys at Town Hall on December 18. It was fun to help those less fortunate shop for their children from babies to age 18. Donna worked the younger table and Marilyn worked the teen table along with other volunteers and staff. Trinity was the only church represented. Erica Texeira, assistant director for Social Services, told us that Trinity is doing a lot for the town and they appreciate it.

YEAR-END OUTREACH DISTRIBUTIONS

The Outreach Committee voted to distribute funds to: Wethersfield Fuel Bank, Rector's Discretionary Fund, our Syrian Family in the form gift cards to Price-Rite and Walmart, and to the Plimpton House which is operated by South Park Inn in Hartford. Earlier in the year we gave large gifts to Kateri Medical Services, Nigeria; St. Vincent's Center for Children With Disabilities in Haiti; and Hands On Hartford. Trinity Parish is also sending 40 students to school, many for the first time, in Kafanchan, Nigeria.

WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK

The Hunger Action Team has notified us that one out of every five people in Wethersfield is hungry. The town food bank has a need for 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, and personal hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothpaste).

SOUTH PARK INN

Please continue to 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,

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities *(continued)*

feminine hygiene products, diapers, laundry soap, cleaning supplies, towels, pillow cases, twin flat and fitted sheets.

OUR SYRIAN FAMILY IN WETHERSFIELD

They are very appreciative of the gift cards and thank Trinity for all we do for them. They now need only the following items: paper towels, toilet paper, washing machine detergent, dish detergent, and liquid hand soap. Due to networking at Sal Basile's last concert, we found a retired ESL teacher who is willing to tutor the two older children. While they speak English very well, they need help applying it to reading, writing, and math.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL DINNERS

We appreciate everyone who supported the success of these dinners throughout 2018. The organization we're supporting is going to initiate some changes later this year. The changes are not yet known but we have had the first two dates for 2019 confirmed: January 28 and March 25. The signup sheet for the first dinner is in the rear of the church. Participation is open to all members who would like to help out. If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact Lynda or Warren Blessing at 860-742-3253 or ctvalleywc@yahoo.com



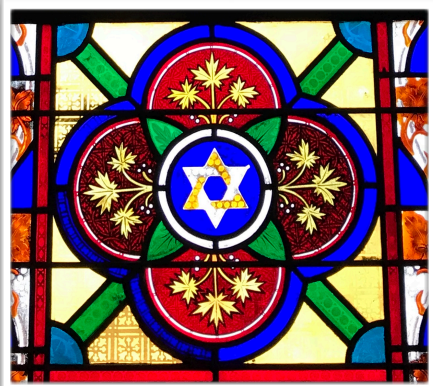
Join Us for Bible Study

Morning Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 10, in the Seabury Room of the Parish Hall. Our facilitator for this session will be Sal Basile, a teacher and lover of the Scriptures.

We look forward to his leading us into new experiences of Scripture and our relationship with God and each other.

The study time starts at 10:30 am. Come anytime after 10 for connecting, coffee, conversation, etc. All are welcome, no matter where you are in your Spiritual journey.

Please contact Rebecca Scruton at 860-436-4288 with any questions.



Upcoming Events

JANUARY 5

Trinity Men: Assemble lunches at 11:30; attend Church by the Pond at 2 and serve lunches at 2:45 in Bushnell Park, Hartford.

JANUARY 8

Evening Book Club, 5:45 pm, at the home of Donna Brown for pizza and a discussion of *White Houses* by Amy Bloom. Snow date is January 9.

JANUARY 14

Morning Book Club, 10:30 am, Nancy Crandall's home (860-503-3353). The selection is *Still Life* by Louise Penny.

JANUARY 20

Growing in Grace Class: How God speaks to us through the Bible, 10:30 am, Bishop Seabury Room.

JANUARY 28

Christ Church Cathedral Dinner

FEBRUARY 5

Ladies Luncheon, 12 noon, Saybrook Fish House, Rocky Hill, call Sue DeCesare at 860-214-2498 if a ride needed.

FEBRUARY 10

Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall following the 9 am service.

Financial Report

Our Vestry has approved the 2019 budget and for the first time in many years Trinity has a balanced budget! This means that our income, primarily from members' pledges, is sufficient to pay all our day-to-day expenses. This is a major accomplishment made possible by generous giving and careful stewardship of our expenses.

Here are the financials as of the end of November.

Pledge Status as of 11/30/2018

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 80,845
Pledge Budget	\$ 74,108
Received	\$ 83,113
Difference	+ \$ 9,005

Income/Expenses as of 11/30/2018

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 111,507	\$ 102,058
Expenses	\$ 121,108	\$ 124,609

Nothing transferred from investments to cover 2018 expenses as of 11/30/2018.

Property Committee Update

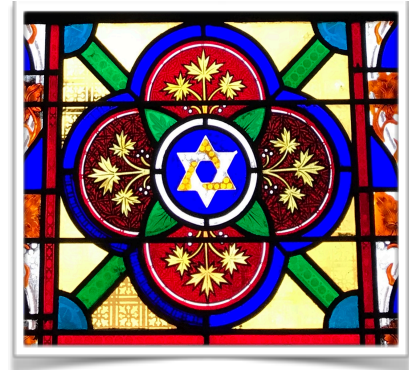
This month the fun begins and, hopefully, will end as well.

The new suspended ceiling and lights will be installed. This work will impact our use of the Parish Hall during January but we will try to keep the disruption to a minimum. As a reminder, ceilings will also be installed in additional small rooms in the general area as well as the back stairway. There will be temporary lights installed and a pathway to and from the kitchen will remain open.

The electrician starts working in early January and the ceiling installers start on January 21. Once the ceiling is in, temporary lights will be removed and the final lights installed.

There will be some painting to finish and another one of those painting parties. This will be held on February 1 and 2 (Friday and Saturday). Having five or six people each day would be great. Look for a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

If you have any questions, ask Warren Blessing or a member of the Property Committee.



Come Sing with Us!

Beginning in February, we hope to have a Choir Sunday on the third Sunday of each month. Rehearsals will be on the second Sunday immediately after the service and will last for about an hour. On Choir Sundays, choir members come in at 8:15 am to run through the music before the service begins.

All singers are welcome. Some of us have sung for many years and others are relative newcomers. Our goal is to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and you will be so welcome to join us.

Call the office at 860-529-6825 and a member of the Music Committee will contact you.

Trinity's Flower Fund

This fund was set up to pay for weekly altar and holiday flowers. The purpose of weekly and holiday flowers is two-fold: to adorn the sanctuary and to offer parishioners and friends the opportunity to remember people who have touched their lives.

Flower fund forms are circulated before Easter and Christmas. You may also contact the church office at 860-529-6825 or operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org at any time with a request and donation.

At holiday time a special floral leaflet accompanies our service bulletin, listing all the holiday memorial and thanksgiving recipients and donors. Following our tradition, we have no arrangements during Advent and Lent.

Our arrangements are designed by Kim's Flower Shop in Wethersfield. For weddings and other services, we suggest patronizing Kim's business for your floral needs.



Please know your donations to the Trinity Flower Fund are received with gratitude and appreciation.

Trinity Altar Guild

Privacy Policy

Trinity takes your right to privacy on electronic and print media very seriously. The Vestry approved a policy on the use of photographs in communications. Photo release forms (one for adults and one for children under 18) are available in the office. There will be a parish-wide distribution in a month or so. The policy states:

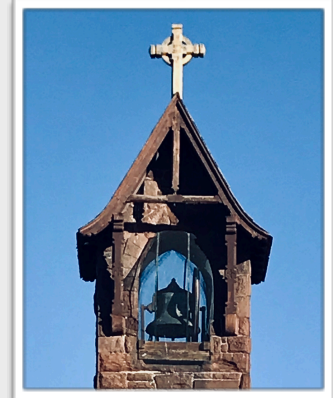
- Trinity will use group photographs, in which no one is identified by name, of church-related activities in any of our communications (electronic or paper) without seeking permission.
- Group photographs are those including more than one adult. Any photograph that includes children under the age of 18 requires parental consent.
- Children will never be identified by name.
- Permission is required for photographs of individuals.
- Permission is required if names are used with photographs.
- Media release forms are available in Trinity's office and will be kept on file.

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

The Belfry is a monthly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109. Send items for the next publication to lesliejonesie@gmail.com by January 24.

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