

# THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

## Inside This Issue

- 1 From Our Wardens
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## 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  
"Growing in Grace" classes for confirmation, reception, reaffirmation and renewal of faith  
Bishop Seabury Room
- Wednesdays - 6-7:30 pm  
Read and Feed  
Bishop Seabury Room



## JOY HOPE GIVE

*By Rose Riley and Denise Paternostro*

At our stewardship meeting last October, we discussed what had brought us JOY in the previous year and what we HOPE'd for in the upcoming year. We had promised to report back on the ideas that you all gave. As we went through those ideas to group and consolidate them, themes arose very quickly.

What gave us JOY?

- ♦ One service and getting to know each other as a family
- ♦ Lots of opportunities for Christian education and to grow in understanding of our faith
- ♦ Inspiring Bible-based sermons at our Sunday morning services, all of our wonderful supply clergy, and more music
- ♦ Becoming a more welcoming parish and welcoming new members
- ♦ Increasing our fellowship activities — holding a parish picnic and forming a Trinity Men's Group and, of course, Sal's wonderful concerts
- ♦ The many occasions for outreach we had during the year, especially our support of Kateri medical clinics and the Nigerian school children's scholarship fund

*(continued on page 2)*



## Clergy Schedule

### 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

### March 2019

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

6 - Ash Wednesday (noon)  
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

10 - First Sunday in Lent  
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

17 - Second Sunday in Lent  
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

24 - Third Sunday in Lent  
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

31 - Fourth Sunday in Lent  
The Rev. Valerie Miller

JOY HOPE GIVE (continued from page 1)

What did we HOPE for in the coming year?

- ✦ Continuing all the things that gave us joy last year
- ✦ More opportunities for fellowship
- ✦ Balancing our parish budget
- ✦ Finding a pastor to join us on our journey

Well, we have already accomplished the last two goals. Thanks to a 27% increase in parish giving, we have a balanced budget. And as of January 1, Father Tom has fulfilled our hopes and given us great joy by joining us as our pastor.

Our remaining HOPE's for this year will help guide our decisions both in day-to-day parish undertakings and our Trinity 150th anniversary celebration.

At our stewardship meeting we also talked about how we might GIVE and challenged ourselves to give generously, perhaps sacrificially, to support our church and to further God's work in the world. Our pledge campaign showed that many of us took that challenge to heart. New members pledged generously, many long-term members increased their pledges and other long-term members who had generously supported Trinity but had not pledged in prior years, chose this year to pledge. It was satisfying to see the increase in income that resulted from our pledge campaign but it was even more hopeful to see the increase in the number of pledges, a strong signal of a growing commitment to our parish.

We're looking forward to 2019 and the continuing guidance and love of the Holy Spirit. If we accomplish even part of the things we HOPE for we will be an even more amazing parish than we are today!



*On January 19, with a finicky furnace and a storm looming, we moved our Sabbath from Sunday to Saturday and gathered for worship in the Parish Hall.*

## From Our Pastor

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God — not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10*

Dear fellow Jesus followers at Trinity,

As I began my time as your pastor, I felt led by the Holy Spirit to focus on a particular Bible passage each month and to encourage all of you to commit the passage to memory. While it is important to read and learn from the whole Bible, focusing on a particular verse can also be a helpful touchstone for our walk of faith. You might even call it a road sign to direct us on the way of following Jesus. No one road sign can show us the whole journey, but it can point us in the right direction to continue following in the footsteps of Jesus.

At first glance, the passage seems to contradict itself. On the one hand it says, we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ — not by our good works. And this could lead one to the mistaken impression that good works are not important. On the other hand, it says that God has created us for good works which are informed by and empowered by our relationship with Jesus. And it goes one step further and says that God prepared these good works ahead of time and wants us to “walk in them.”

The New Testament uses that phrase “walk around” a lot. (In New Testament Greek, the word is *parapateite* from which we get the English word peripatetic — the act of moving around a lot). Why does the Bible use this word to describe the followers of Jesus? Here is my theory: God does not want us to sit on our butts and think wonderful thoughts all the time. He wants us to DO something. He wants us to engage the world around us. He wants us to make a discernible difference in the lives of people around us. God didn’t prepare lovely thoughts so that we should be mesmerized by them. Instead God prepared good works that we should “walk around in them.”

So, to summarize, we are not saved (reconciled to God and redeemed from sin) by our own good works. We are reconciled to God by God’s sovereign act of mercy in sending Jesus to be our redeemer. And once we realize and accept what God has done for us, then the natural response is to follow Jesus and imitate God’s act of kindness and mercy to us by showing kindness and mercy to our fellow human beings. And when we do that, we are walking in the footsteps of Jesus toward the Grand Finale of Creation — the Kingdom of God.

Your brother in Christ,  
Tom

## Parish Leadership

PASTOR  
The Rev. Thomas Furrer

STAFF  
Kathy Cole, Administrator  
Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12  
860-529-6825  
operations@  
trinityepiscopalweth.org

Dorothy LaBelle  
Music Director

Nick Tracano  
Sexton

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

## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Trinity Parish will take place at 10:30 am on Sunday, February 10 (following the service) in the Parish Hall. A festive brunch will be available just before the meeting begins.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.



*Presentation of Jesus in the Temple  
by JESUS MAFA \**

## Epiphany Prayer

Lord God of all people, you have shone the light of Christ into a world darkened by sin. In this Epiphany season, give us grace and power to bring the light of Christ to every dark place: in the hardness of the human heart; into the depths of cruelty and injustice; into the lives of those hungry for bread, hungry for love, hungry for hope; into the depths of doubt and despair. Give us power and wisdom and vision to be Christ-bearers to our world. Amen.

*\*JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by community members. Photographs were made and then transcribed to paintings. This painting is for our February 2 reading.*

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

### DINNERS AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Warren and Lynda Blessing coordinate the Cathedral dinners and truly appreciate everyone who contributes to the success of those dinners. The next dinner is March 25. About eight individuals are needed for two and a half hours to help prepare and serve food. If you'd like to help out, there is a sign up sheet at the back of the church. It's a very satisfying evening of helping others. Questions? Call Warren or Lynda at 860-742-3253.

### EPIPHANY — THE SEASON OF GIVING

On Epiphany, the Three Kings brought their gifts to the manger. Throughout the season of Epiphany, we will focus on the needs of those who find refuge at South Park Inn in Hartford. In January, our giving was for children's needs. In February, our giving will be for women's and men's needs. Special wish lists will be provided for each of these groups in our weekly e-blasts and bulletin inserts.

As always, the generosity of Trinity Parish members helps us as a church to follow the second great commandment: Love thy neighbor as thyself.

### WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK

Especially needed are canned chicken, jelly, and snacks (Goldfish® crackers, breakfast bars, and belVitas®). Staples such as pasta, canned goods, tuna fish, and peanut butter are also much in demand.

### SYRIAN FAMILY IN WETHERSFIELD

Needed are paper towels, toilet paper, washing machine detergent, dish detergent, liquid hand soap. A couple of people have included low sugar juice boxes for the children's lunches and what a wonderful addition this has been.

### CHURCH BY THE POND & LUNCH IN THE PARK

Father Tom has celebrated Holy Eucharist at Church by the Pond in Bushnell Park for over 10 years. Last month we served bagged lunches and shared hot chocolate after the service. Our next date to serve is Saturday, May 4. If you'd like to join in making sandwiches and/or serving lunches, let anyone in the Men's Group know.

### THANK YOU FROM ST. THOMAS CLINIC, NIGERIA

We have just received a thank you note from the director of the Saint Thomas Clinic in Port Harcourt, Nigeria for our work in sponsoring a Sustainable Development Goal grant of \$14,766 and contributing an additional \$2,000 to buy diagnostic equipment

## Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

THANK YOU FROM ST. THOMAS... *continued from previous page*)

for clinics in Nigeria. Below is an excerpt from the thank you note from the Rev. Dr. Olaniyi Olaobaju. We are so honored and blessed to have the desire and this opportunity to do the Lord's work.

"With a heart full of gratitude from all of us in St. Thomas Clinic and Thomas Furrer Foundation, we like to acknowledge the receipt of funds sent from Kateri Medical Services towards the equipping of the laboratory and diagnostics arm of the clinic. Having a standard laboratory will not only help us in giving proper diagnoses to the patients and clients on a daily basis, it will be of immense benefit during the outreach of October. ... the entire people of Eleme are grateful to all the sponsors of the outreach. There has never been such outreach in Eleme-land where everything (consultation and prescription) will be given at no cost. They long for more of it. We, on our part have been tremendously blessed spiritually because it affords us the opportunity to tell the world about Jesus and make his love known to them."

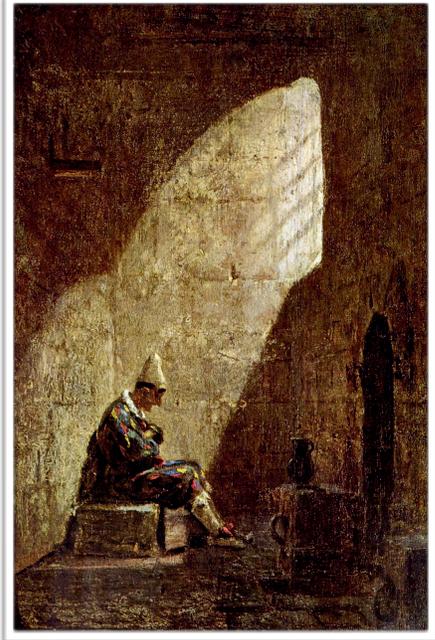
### ST. VINCENT'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN HAITI



St. Vincent's is the only Episcopal school in Haiti which provides academic, clinical, and residential services for blind, deaf, and physically disabled children. Daily, the students "gather together to ask the Lord's blessing" and we are told that Trinity is part of that blessing. Our contributions help provide school supplies, food, and teachers' salaries. The Outreach Committee donated \$1,550 this year to St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities, and we have helped support them since the 1990s.

### COPPROME ORPHANAGE IN HONDURAS

Ginger Smith will be selling her delicious soups in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 24. Proceeds help support children at Copprome Orphanage in Honduras, of which Ginger has been a devoted supporter for 16 years. Please consider buying at least one, as the food situation at Copprome is not good right now. There will be 25 soup choices, 10 of them vegetarian.



*Ash Wednesday\**  
Karl Spitzweg, 1808-1885

## Preparing for Lent

In addition to your own personal preparations for Lent, we'll be gathering on Shrove Tuesday (aka Pancake Tuesday and Mardi Gras) March 5, 5:30 pm for a traditional Pancake Supper. Invite your friends and family for good food and a great time.

The penitential season of Lent will begin the next day with Ash Wednesday. We will have a service with the imposition of ashes at noon. There is also an evening service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wethersfield at 7pm.

*\* A commentary on this painting can be found at <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/leant/arts-and-faith-for-lent/cycle-b/arts-and-faith-ash-wednesday-ii>*



## Upcoming Events

### FEBRUARY 5

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

### FEBRUARY 6, 13, 20, 27

Read & Feed, pizza at 6 and discussion from 6:30-7:30, Bishop Seabury Room.

### FEBRUARY 10

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

### FEBRUARY 17

Growing in Grace class, "How God strengthens our faith and character through the Christian community." After service, Bishop Seabury Room.

### FEBRUARY 19

The Evening Book Club will meet at 5:45 pm for pizza and a discussion of *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck at the home of Barbara Rowley. Snow date is February 20.

### FEBRUARY 24

Ginger's Soup to Go in support of Copprome Orphanage, Honduras; Parish Hall following the service.

## Financial Report

Here are the financials as of the end of December.

### Pledge Status as of 12/31/2018

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 80,845
Pledge Budget	\$ 80,845
Received	\$ 91,275
Difference	+ \$ 10,430

### Income/Expenses as of 12/31/2018

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 124,712	\$ 111,336
Expenses	\$ 133,482	\$ 135,938

Nothing transferred from investments to cover 2018 expenses as of 12/31/2018.

## Property Update: Construction Is Underway

Installation is underway for the ceiling grids and the new lighting. Ceiling installers have started and electricians will follow up with new lighting. Ceiling installers then return to cut and install the flat panels. Our volunteers will be in on February 1 and February 2 to paint the walls.

Our schedule floats along but as this is being published, it is on track to be completed for our annual meeting. Keep your fingers crossed.

## 10 Signs of Welcoming Churches

A recent article in The Episcopal Foundation's Vestry Papers identified ten signs of welcoming congregations. Our vestry discussed this article at their January meeting and thought you would like to review them. How well do you think Trinity Parish is doing?

- ✦ Have updated websites and social media pages
- ✦ Have visitor parking
- ✦ Have clear signage and directions
- ✦ Have smiling greeters who are not over eager
- ✦ Make worship appear simple and easy to navigate
- ✦ Are intentionally diverse
- ✦ Follow up quickly and with respect
- ✦ Are easy to understand
- ✦ Are clean
- ✦ Are loving

## Lay Ministry Schedule

### February 3

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	C. Jones
Lector	G. Lohman
Intercessor	C. Chadsey
Ushers	D. Paternostro
	M. Kucka
Closer	D. Paternostro

### February 10

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	J. Joseph
Lector	L. Jones
Intercessor	K. Cole
Ushers	D. Paternostro
	M. Kucka
Closer	K. Cole

### February 17

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	D. Paternostro
Lector	M. Hepburn
Intercessor	J. Shaw
Usher	M. Kucka
Closer	R. Riley

### February 24

Opener	D. Paternostro
Eucharistic Minister	V. Smith
Lector	C. Jones
Intercessor	C. Helfant
Ushers	D. Paternostro
	M. Kucka
Closer	D. Paternostro



### New Book Study

The Christian Formation Committee is sponsoring a book study called Read and Feed based on Brian McLaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*.

Read and Feed will take place on Wednesday evenings from January 30 to April 10. Join us for pizza at 6 pm and discussion from 6:30 to 7:30.

Sign up by calling the office or by adding your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Be sure to indicate if you need a book.

### This Month's Bible Verse

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

*Ephesians 2:8-10*

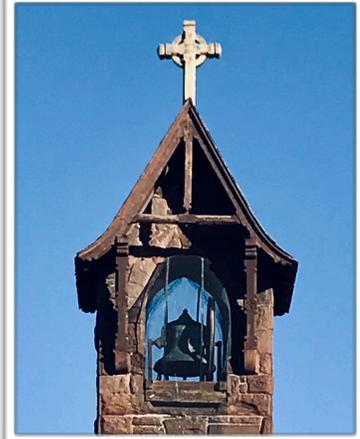
## A Prayer for Parish Mission

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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

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*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](mailto:lesliejonesie@gmail.com) by February 22.

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