

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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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 pm
Read and Feed
Bishop Seabury Room

From Our Pastor

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man also has come the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
Corinthians 15: 20 - 22

Dear friends in Christ,

As you all know, there are many religions in the world: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Confucianism, Animism, Pantheism and so on. And there are many ideologies which compete with religion in trying to explain the ultimate meaning of life: Nationalism, Communism, Socialism, Consumerism, Utilitarianism, Nihilism, Go-To-The-Gym-and-Have-A-Perfect-Bodyism and so on. If you try to compare all of the truth claims of all of these various ways of defining reality, you can give yourself a very big headache. But sometimes, it is worth giving yourself a headache to try to weigh up the competing truth claims and decide which makes the most sense.

Later this month, we are going to celebrate again the central truth claim of Christianity. This central truth claim has six parts, each of which builds on the other:

- 1) that the God who created us is seen most clearly in the human life of Jesus of Nazareth
- 2) that Jesus devoted his life to proclaiming and demonstrating the purpose and love of God
- 3) that Jesus suffered and died a horrid death to demonstrate God's presence and love in the midst of the worst of human cruelty
- 4) that Jesus defeated the power of sin and death when he rose from the dead
- 5) that Jesus appeared to his disciples after he rose from the dead
- 6) that Jesus is alive forevermore and promises eternal life to those who believe in, love and follow him

This is the central truth claim of Christian faith. This is the promise of Christian faith. This is the life-changing power and hope of Christian faith. We live in a world messed up by human sin ("as in

(continued on page 2)

Sunday & Holy Day Readings

April 7 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 14 - Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 118:1-2,19-29
Luke 19:28-40
Liturgy of the Word
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

April 18 - Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4,11-14
Psalm 116:1, 10-17
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-7, 31b-35

April 19 - Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:15
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-9:42

April 21 - Easter

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

April 28 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

(continued from page 1)

Adam all die”) but while we are living in this messed up world, we have the presence and power and hope of redemption (“so also in Christ shall all be made alive”).

In the final weeks of Lent and in Holy Week and Easter, we retrace the steps of Jesus. It is a pilgrimage of faith and hope. It is a time to reconnect – as if for the first time – with the God who has loved us so dearly in Jesus of Nazareth. I invite you all to enter this pilgrimage in expectation that God will show you the depths of His love for you and for our world.

You may have heard many sermons about the Resurrection of Jesus. You may have read the Bible or other books about the Risen Lord. You may have heard people talk about Jesus being alive. You may have heard about having a relationship with Jesus. But ultimately, there is only one way to know if any of this is true. And that is to experience it yourself. To pray that Jesus will show himself to you alive. That Jesus will enter into your life and give his life and love to you. Many years ago, someone challenged me to test out the truth claims of Christian faith for myself. And I did. And I am happy I did.

I invite you to invite Jesus, the Crucified and Risen Lord, to show Himself to you.

Sincerely,
Father Tom

Spring Training!

Nope, not baseball! The Spring Training and Gathering event hosted by the Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT) is coming soon and all members of Trinity are invited and encouraged to attend. Please review the information below and plan to attend.

ECCT Spring Training & Gathering

Saturday, April 27, from 9 am to 4 pm at Berlin High School. Join other Episcopalians from across Connecticut for a day of fellowship, learning, prayer and fun. All are welcome, from people in the pews and vestry members to parish leaders and staff. Coffee, tea, morning refreshments and lunch provided.

Workshops are available for the following categories: Christian Formation; Communications; Connecting and Collaborating; Essential Parish Operations; Leadership; Pastoral Care; Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation; Social Justice and Advocacy; Spiritual Practices; Stewardship; and Worship.

For a complete description of workshops and registration, visit www.episcopalct.org, click on the Events tab, and then select Spring Training in the drop down box. There you will find the entire menu of offerings.

Expanding Local Outreach



Connie Harasymiw, Trinity project leader, with Sean Lawrence, Eagle Scout leader.

Over the last three years, Trinity has recognized the desire of parishioners to have a more meaningful presence in meeting the needs of the less fortunate in town. After meeting with Erica Texeira, Assistant Director of Wethersfield Social and Youth Services, we came to realize that Trinity could offer space and volunteers but needed to interface with the town to identify people in need and also help in the distribution of clothing and household goods which we could collect and store in our rooms downstairs.

Earlier this year Sean Lawrence, an Eagle Scout from Troup 85, formulated a project to convert space into a very nice storage and

distribution center. Along with nearly a dozen fellow scouts, Sean cleaned, painted and refurbished three of our classrooms so that we can move ahead in our effort to offer clothing and household goods to people in need. At this time we envision one room to be home furnishings, one room for men's clothing and one for women's clothing. As our program evolves and gathers momentum, we may change those designations as needs become more defined.

As more concrete plans are made we will keep you all informed so you can step forward with your strengths and passions and help in whatever ways you feel you are called. Trinity people have always had great and generous hearts and we are opening yet another avenue in which they can help make a difference in their community.

(ECCT SPRING TRAINING & GATHERING, continued from page 2)

If you do not have computer access but would like to attend Spring Training, please call the office at 860-529-6825 and someone will help with your registration. Carpooling can be arranged from Trinity if desired.

Registration until 4/14 is \$25. Walk-ins (space permitting) \$35. Questions? Contact Debbie Kenney at dkenney@episcopalct.org.



Disciples John and Peter on their way to the tomb on Easter morning, Eugene Burnand, 1898.

Parish Leadership

PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer

STAFF

Kathy Cole, Administrator

Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12

860-529-6825

[operations@](mailto:operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org)

trinityepiscopalweth.org

Dorothy LaBelle, Music Director

Nick Tracano, Sexton

VESTRY

Warren Blessing

Robert Heath, Treasurer

Carol Jones, Clerk

Leslie Jones

Tina LaMorte

Cheryl Lewis

Denise Paternostro, Warden

Rose Riley, Warden

Judith Shaw

Linda Traue



*Jesus Appears to Thomas - Painting
by Jacek Andrzej Rossakiewicz,
Poland, 1990.*

This Month's Bible Verse

"Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man also has come the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

1 Corinthians 15: 20 - 22

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

April 12 - Fundraiser Dinner at St. Andrew's, Rocky Hill, 6 pm

April 27 - From the Fifties to Now, Sal Basile's concert to benefit Trinity, 7 pm

May 4 - Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, St. Andrew's, Rocky Hill, 9 am - 12 noon

June 8 - Golden Oldies Concert to benefit Outreach Committee, 7 pm

July & August - Renewal of scholarships for 40 Nigerian students

September 29 - Chili + Rice & Beans Cook-off, 5 pm, Parish Hall

Many of our committee members along with other parishioners are involved in community programs and ministries. Outreach is making a difference in so many ways, not the least of which is filling the bins in the Parish Hall nearly every week for Wethersfield Food Bank, South Park Inn, and our Syrian family. This is a wonderful ministry to which everyone has responded so willingly. Please don't forget the Wethersfield Social Services Backpack Program which students take home over the weekend to supplement their meals. Crackers, breakfast bars, granola bars, and other healthy snacks go into the Food Bank bin.

DINNER FUNDRAISER AT ST. ANDREW'S, ROCKY HILL

This dinner will raise money for the Neighbors Feeding Neighbors project which will enable us to provide food packets for about 1,000 people. St. Andrew's has extended an invitation to us to join them at 6 pm on April 12. The meal will consist of mac 'n' cheese with kielbasa, vegetables, bread and brownies. The cost is \$10 per person, \$15 per family. We hope to have a good crowd going from Trinity. Questions about the fundraiser or project can be directed to Warren Blessing, Rose Riley or Marilyn Ford. Warren can be contacted at 860-742-3253 or ctvalleywc@yahoo.com.

NEIGHBORS FEEDING NEIGHBORS

We're excited to be participating with St. Andrew's in Rocky Hill in a new outreach program called Neighbors Feeding Neighbors. We will work together to package 10,000 freeze-dried meals of macaroni and cheese that will be distributed to the Wethersfield Food Bank, South Park Inn, and Cornerstone Shelter in Vernon. In Wethersfield, students who participate in the weekend Backpack Program will take home these easy-to-prepare meals on Fridays to provide them with hot food while they are away from the free meal program offered through the school system.

The packing, which is open to public volunteers, will take place on Saturday, May 4, at St. Andrew's from 9 am to noon. Volunteers will

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

work assembly line style to package the ingredients and can give an hour, 2 hours, or 3 hours of their time. Families are encouraged to bring children.

Donations will be accepted to allow us to package an additional 1,000 meals of oatmeal. These meals will be distributed through the food bank and multiple food programs to residents in town. Forty meals can be supplied for every \$10 donation.

FROM THE FIFTIES TO NOW

Sal and Dave will be giving a wonderful concert for the benefit of Trinity on Saturday, April 27, at 7 pm. We will need help in setting up, food (hot and cold appetizers, fruit, cheese and crackers, your favorite recipes, etc.) and clean up. It takes a lot of food to feed the people we are now getting thanks especially to Sal's followers. (No casseroles or salads please.)

COMMUNITY MEALS AT THE CATHEDRAL



The Trinity crew at the March 25 Cathedral dinner.

We completed two successful dinners in January and March. Community Meals has just confirmed the dates for more dinners this year. They will start back up in the summer and into the fall, so please add three dates to your calendar for reference: July 22, September 23 and November 25.

We welcome any and all members who would like to participate in the dinners. We enjoy having new people who would like the opportunity to serve in this manner. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact Lynda or Warren Blessing at 860-742-3253 or ctvalleywc@yahoo.com.



Pieta by Michelangelo.

A Reminder from the Prayer Team

The team accepts requests from parishioners who wish to have prayers for a person in immediate need because of illness or impending surgery. The communication and all details are confidential to the team.

Members of the team will pray for that person daily for two weeks from the time received. If there is further need for prayers, the parishioner who originally put in the request will need to get in touch again to ask for another two weeks.

Calls should be made to Janice Rouse at 860-529-5139 (please leave a message) or email dickandjan@cox.net.

Team members include Janice Rouse (convener), Rebecca Scruton, Sue Smith, Mimi Basile, Sue Krupenvech-Rafala, Cheryl Chadsey, Tina LaMorte and Nancy Buttarro.



Three Marys at the Tomb, William-Adolphe Bouguereau, 1825-1905.

Upcoming Events

APRIL 2

The Ladies Luncheon will be at Abigail's in Simsbury. If you're in need of a ride, call Sue Ellen DeCesare at 860-214-2498.

APRIL 12

Fundraising Dinner for Neighbors Feeding Neighbors project, St. Andrew's, Rocky Hill, 6 pm.

APRIL 27

ECCT Spring Training & Gathering, 9 am to 4 pm, Berlin High School.

APRIL 27

From the 50s to Now concert with Sal and Dave, 7 pm, Parish Hall.

APRIL 30

The Evening Book Club will meet at 5:45 for pizza and discussion at the home of Susan Reese. Our selection for this month is *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin.

Financial Report

Here are the financials as of the end of February.

Pledge Status as of 2/28/2019

Total Annual Pledge	\$ 115,542
Pledge Budget	\$ 19,257
Received	\$ 23,372
Difference	+ \$ 4,115

Income/Expenses as of 2/28/2019

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 25,622	\$ 22,685
Expenses	\$ 23,912	\$ 22,685

Nothing transferred from investments to cover 2019 expenses as of 2/28/2019. However \$25,000 was transferred in February to cover the Parish Hall renovation.

Ministry Sunday: Focus on the Property Committee

"Keeping the Lord's house in shape to allow us to serve."

This month's Ministry Sunday will be on April 7. Members from the Property Committee will be at coffee hour after the service, ready to speak to other parish members who think they might enjoy serving on the Property Committee.

Take a few minutes to talk to Warren Blessing, Jerry Stavola, Ray Colburn, Clark Tomlinson, Connie Harasymiw, Billye Logan or any other committee member to find out what they do to keep our house in order.

Singers Are Needed for the Easter Season!

Our Trinity choir will sing anthems at services on Palm Sunday (April 14), Maundy Thursday (April 18) and Easter Sunday (April 21). Rehearsals take place after church on Sundays, March 31 and April 7, and Tuesday evening, April 9, at 6 pm.

We would be so pleased to have new as well as returning singers at any or all of these services. If you wish to sing, please notify the office (operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org) or just stop by the sanctuary after church on the rehearsal Sundays. And please plan to come and sing even if you can't be at all of the services.

Many voices will make our Easter music shine — come join us!

Lay Ministry Schedule

April 7	Opener Eucharistic Minister Lector Intercessor Ushers Closer	D. Paternostro A. Stavola L. Jones G. Smith M. Kucka J. Stavola R. Riley
April 14	Opener Eucharistic Minister Lector Intercessor Ushers Closer	C. Harasymiw J. Joseph G. Myers R. Riley D. Paternostro C. Helfant D. Paternostro
April 21	Opener Eucharistic Minister Lector Intercessor Ushers Closer	D. Paternostro S. Basile R. Riley C. Chadsey D. Paternostro K. Cole
April 28	Opener Eucharistic Minister Lector Intercessor Ushers Closer	D. Paternostro R. Colburn J. Shaw K. Cole D. Paternostro R. Riley

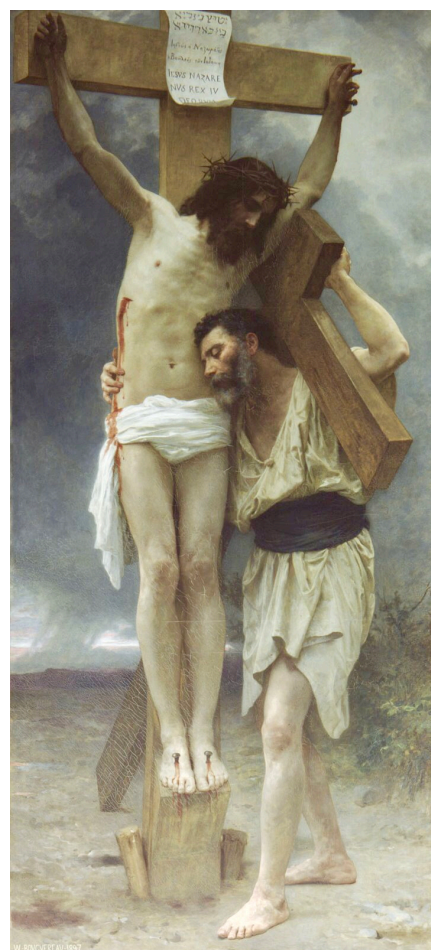
Easter Flowers

Please consider a donation to Trinity Parish Easter Flowers. We gratefully accept any amount you give but suggest \$50. Make your check payable to Trinity Parish and note "flower fund" on the memo line. Indicate (M) for memorial, or (T) for living thanksgiving on the line(s) below.

Name(s): _____

Given by: _____

You may mail your donation to Trinity Parish, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109; bring it to the office, Tuesday through Thursday, 9 to 12; or include it with your Sunday contribution.



Compassion,
William-Adolphe Bouguereau,
1897.

Holy Week Services

APRIL 17

Maundy Thursday service,
7 pm

APRIL 18

Twelve Stations of the Cross
and Solemn Liturgy, noon
Church open for silent prayer
until 3 pm

APRIL 18

Tenebrae, St. Paul's, 7 pm

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 April 23.

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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.